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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab 'Minisummit' Expected in Cairo by End of Jun

MM1906114395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Neighboring States Summit Expected To Be Held in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Arab political sources said in Cairo yesterday that an Arab minisummit bringing together Egypt and the four neighboring [on Israel] states — Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan — is expected to be held before the end of the month.

In important assertions to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the sources expected this summit to be held in Cairo and chaired by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Prominent political sources in Cairo have said that Egypt has welcomed this summit, which will be the first to be held among those known as the parties to the peace process since coordination meetings among foreign ministers of these states were suspended three years ago and since the revelation of the secret Palestinian-Israeli Oslo negotiations that led to the signing of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The sources said that Cairo has indeed begun to intensify its contacts and consultations — reflecting the Egyptian desire to resume the neighboring states' strategic steps toward Arab preparation for the requirements of the peace process in the stage ahead.

Arab League Figure, Serb Official Comment on Talks

NC1906125995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, today received Serb Assistant Foreign Minister Zvezdan Jovanovic and his accompanying delegation currently touring the region. After the meeting 'Imran said the Serb official came to the region to explain his country's stance on developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina from Serbia's point of view. He noted that the Serb official stressed his country's concern for the success of the latest plan reached by the UN liaison committee on Bosnia. He said the Serb official declared that his country condemns every act of terrorism, killing, and kidnapping in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He voiced his hope that the countries of the region will show understanding for Serbia's efforts and that Serbia be given the opportunity to restore relations of friendship and cooperation with the countries of the region.

'Imran said he explained to the Serb official the Arab League's stance, which has always been concern for stopping the bloodshed and finding a settlement that will preserve rights. He also stressed the Arab countries' support for the plan reached by the UN liaison committee. He said the regional countries believe Serbia can try harder to implement the plan and end the fighting there. He noted that the Bosnian Serbs rely on the support they receive from some parties. He pointed out that the Serb official expressed his understanding of Arab views and stressed his country's determination to keep trying to make the peace plan succeed and end the fighting as quickly as possible.

AMU Secretary General Comments on Achievements

LD1706134295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the 33d ordinary session of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] follow-up committee continue in Djenane El Mithak residence in Algiers for the second consecutive day. AMU secretaries of state in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs are studying the proposed agenda, which includes the approval of the session's minutes, the progress achieved in building the AMU, and the proposal on agenda proceedings of the AMU foreign ministers' 17th session, which will be held in Algiers tomorrow.

AMU Secretary General Mohamed Amamou talks to colleague Leila Ghachar:

[Begin Amamou recording] Despite difficulties — whether internally or externally — the AMU has been able to progress in building itself and its work in a way that guarantees success to the Maghreban process.

The citizen started to see the achievements of signed agreements and studies and all things adopted at the level of specialized ministerial committees realized. These achievements are within the framework of infrastructure and the committee for human resources. This committee is one of the basic ministerial committees concerned with education, culture, health, justice, and other fields concerning human resources. [end recording]

UMA Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens in Algiers

Algeria's Dembri on UMA's Prospects

LD1806100495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 17th session of the council of foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] opens in Algiers today. The session comes the day after the seventh anniversary of the UMA. For the Algerian foreign minister, the UMA has all that it takes for success, in particular a significant capacity for regional autonomy. Mohamed Salah Dembri spoke to Walid Selman:

[Begin Dembri recording] I think what is important for all of us at the current time is to act to ensure that the Maghreb space should be a space open to all creative potentials. We have the means to ensure economic development centered on our own region: we have a huge energy potential, an industrial base in all our countries, agriculture able to feed everyone, and of course a production potential capable of making us part of the international division of labor. We are thinking about things; we are trying to find the ways and means. You cannot do this from one day to the next. We are still a young union, even if the idea is an old one. Bit by bit, however, somehow or other we shall build this Maghreb house, the existence of which is an underlying assumption in all the speeches of our heads of state. [end recording]

Dembri Gives Opening Address

LD1806153995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the 17th session of the ministerial council of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] foreign ministers began at El Mithak Residency today under the chairmanship of Mohamed Salah Dembri, the Algerian foreign minister. The meeting was also attended by Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation in charge of Maghreban Affairs and by the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania. Morocco was represented by the minister of agriculture and agricultural investment. Our correspondent, Leila Ghachar, reports:

[Ghachar] In his opening address, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Salah Dembri reiterated Algeria's commitment to preserve the UMA, which is a historical necessity as well as a strategic and popular choice.

He indicated, however, that this meeting has a particular importance and it is an important phase in the UMA's unitary march.

Our minister of foreign affairs added that today's meeting should draw up a practical program which takes into account the available means. It should also take advantage of the possibilities of integration in the vital sectors for development of the Maghreban region and set up a cohesive Maghreban economic union which can face up to the modern challenges, he reiterated.

The minister renewed Algeria's solidarity with the fraternal Libyan Arab people and the Palestinian people.

On his part Mohamed Amamou, the UMA's secretary general, briefed the council on all the activities and achievements realized so far within the framework of the Maghreban integration efforts.

The foreign ministers of Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania as well as the Moroccan minister of agriculture reiterated their satisfaction with the work achieved so far and reaffirmed the need for further efforts to boost the credibility of the UMA.

Session Concludes

LD1806231195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the El Mithak residence in the capital, the proceedings of the 17th session of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Ministerial Council were concluded tonight under the supervision of Mohamed Salah Dembri, our foreign minister and chairman of the session, with an emphasis on the intensification of coordination, unification of efforts, and the speedy ratification of pending agreements.

The Ministerial Council devoted a whole day to the discussion of profound issues concerning the evaluation of the march of the union in light of the report submitted by Mr. Ahmed Attaf, the chairman of the follow-up committee and secretary of state in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs.

This session also included political consultations between the foreign ministers with a view to adopting a unified stand vis-a-vis some of the issues posed at the Arab scene, at the fore of which was the Libya-Western crisis and the embargo imposed on the Jamahiriyah by the Security Council.

Concerning this point, the UMA Ministerial Council stressed its firm stand and full support to the Libyan people in this predicament.

The occasion provided an opportunity to set specific dates for the completion and signing of a number of priority agreements.

On conclusion of the session, a news conference was held by Mohamed Salah Dembri and Ahmed Attaf in which they expressed their great satisfaction at the frankness that prevailed the proceedings and at the results achieved.

End To Iraq, Libya Sanctions Urged

LD1906164795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 17th session of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Foreign Ministers council was culminated by a final statement that includes a host of Maghreban and international issues. In this context, the council noted the important strides made by the union in promoting joint Maghreban work, and making it more effective.

The council also dealt with the persistent preparations to furnish the conditions required for the success of the 7th session of the UMA Presidential Council, due to be held in Algiers toward the end of this year.

The council also reaffirmed its unyielding solidarity with the brotherly Libyan Arab people in their steadfastness while facing the tyrannical measures imposed on them, despite the positive responses and the initiatives put forward by Libya to find a just, peaceful, and honorable solution to the so-called Lockerbie crisis.

The council called on the UN Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya.

Regarding the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism that is alien to Maghreban society, culture, and traditions, the council stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation among member states to face this phenomenon.

Regarding the Middle East peace process, the council reaffirmed its solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. It expressed its absolute rejection of the confiscation of Palestinian Arab land.

The council called on the UN Security Council to adopt the appropriate measures to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people, brought about by the UN embargo imposed on them.

Regarding the European-Mediterranean conference due to be held in Barcelona in November, the council stressed the need to coordinate the member states' stances to bring about a united stance that will serve their common interests.

The council also expressed its concern about and solidarity with the Bosnian people who are facing Serb challenges. It called on the international community to find a just solution to the tragedy in the light of international and Islamic resolutions.

Dembri Stresses Need To Lift Libyan Sanctions

LD1906210095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Maghreban Foreign Ministers issued a final statement stressing the need for cooperation and coordination of efforts by members of the Arab Maghreb Union. [passage omitted] Support for the Libyan people, who are suffering from the embargo imposed by Western powers, was expressed. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri returned to this theme when he spoke to our correspondent, Rachida Touazi:

[Begin Dembri recording] Our position is one of support and solidarity with Libya. Of course, what is being asked for is that the Security Council should take into account the new facts that have emerged, information on the attack on the Pan Am plane. Naturally, we have insisted on the necessity to ease the embargo that is currently directed against Libya, and which is beginning to cause serious disruption to the daily life of Libyans. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Announces General Strike Planned for 21 Jun

JN1906142695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has insisted on releasing Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees from the occupation's jails. He urged the Israeli Government to release the prisoners quickly, and said that failure to release them means failure to implement the agreement.

President 'Arafat has also declared the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, a day of general strike in Palestine in solidarity with the men and women prisoners.

Spokesman Voices Leadership Concern Over Prisoners

JN1806094495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, has said that President 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership are extremely worried about Israel's continued detention of over 6,000 Palestinians. He added that by doing so, Israel is violating all international charters, norms, and laws, in addition to the Declaration of Principles signed with the PLO. He reiterated the president's view that there will be no agreement, progress, or breakthrough without the release of all prisoners.

Al-Husayni, Ireland's Spring Meet at Orient House

JN1906185095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, received at the Orient House in occupied Jerusalem today Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and his delegation.

The meeting dealt with the Israeli procrastination about implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles as well as the Israeli encroachments on Jerusalem, the expropriation of lands, and the building of settlements on them.

Spring Describes Talks

TA2006064495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Ireland's Foreign Minister Dick Spring yesterday paid a visit to Orient House in East Jerusalem, despite Israeli opposition.

During the visit, which was termed a courtesy call, the Irish official met with Faysal al-Husayni and two other Palestinian officials. Outside the building, several hundred Israeli demonstrators protested. Reporter Mark Weiss has the details:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The Irish foreign minister described his talks as a continuation of discussions held in the Middle East over the last five days, with Ireland as a friendly country and taking over the presidency of the European Union next year. I asked Mr. Spring if he supports Palestinian claims of sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

[Spring] I think, in all the situations in relation to Jerusalem, that matter is to be negotiated at a later stage. I think what is important now is that the timetable that has been set out is implemented in full to allow the elections to take place, to allow the withdrawal to take place. It is very important that the trust that has been built up, that it shouldn't be forfeited in the coming months. From Ireland's point of view, we approach this matter in an evenhanded way, and I would like to think that my visit both to Israel and my visit and discussions with the Palestinians in Gaza and here will help our relations with both sides.

[Weiss] One of the Palestinians who met the Irish foreign minister, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, said visits to the Orient House by foreign officials will continue despite Israeli protests.

[Abu-Zayyad] Well, the significance is that the Orient House has been functioning all the time as the offices of the Palestinian delegation, and it will continue to function as such. Despite all the Israeli efforts to prevent the Orient House from doing its natural role, it's still continuing to do that.

[Weiss] Outside, a noisy protest was held by the Women in Green and other right-wing activists. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Qadddumi Views Peace Prospects, U.S. Stand

NC1906190895 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Jun 95 p 6

[Interview with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi by Salah 'Azazi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ['Azazi] There is a question that concerns you. You are one of the most prominent opponents of the Oslo Agreement, but you are not pursuing the diplomacy of that pact?

[Qaddumi] There is a difference between what I do because I am in charge of the PLO Political Department and of foreign affairs and my view of that agreement. It is well known that I have rejected it right from the start, declared my reservations, and warned of its dangers and threats to the goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state. My current responsibilities are not complementary to the Oslo process, nor do they stem from its articles and clauses or accord with it. My responsibilities stem from my concern as a Palestinian leader and citizen to save the legitimate Palestinian rights, show the negative aspects of the negotiations in Oslo and elsewhere, emphasize that the stance we have taken from the beginning rejecting it was right, and that those who pursue the Oslo path are mistaken. This is regrettable: There is no talk of a Palestinian state, nor is there any place for Jerusalem in the negotiations. The refugees have not returned to their homes and the Israeli army has not withdrawn from our occupied land. Thus, the agreement has achieved nothing. I am not responsible for this agreement. Those who signed and promoted it are responsible.

['Azazi] How would you assess this experiment and the extent of its suitability for the Palestinian people, now that more than one year has passed since the establishment of the self-rule area?

[Qaddumi] This question takes us several years back, to when Israel felt that the intifadah was exhausting it militarily, materially and in terms of human lives. Israel also realized that the Gaza Strip was an area devoid of useful natural resources and that it would be a severe burden for them to keep it. Hence, the idea was born to agree to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and to let the Palestinians take Gaza and a small part of the West Bank—Jericho. My assessment of the experiment is that what has happened is a reorganization of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian areas. In reality, there is nothing new: The Israeli soldiers have not withdrawn and the functions Israel exercises are on the increase while the Palestinians have not been given any responsibilities or sovereignty rights. Israel has not complied with anything. Through its agents and terrorist security policy, it is trying to provoke internecine fighting and civil war. Moreover, it will not give up or withdraw from the West Bank and will not stop building settlements. It continues the same policy as before and during the so-called the Declaration of Principles agreement.

['Azazi] In your capacity as chief of the PLO Political Department you backed the call to halt the normalization of ties and Arab cooperation with Israel. Is there anything new regarding this call?

[Qaddumi] Certainly the Arab attitude toward normalization is different now than previously. Since the Alexandria Summit, the Arab foreign ministers have been fully convinced that they cannot agree to cooperation or normalization with Israel as long as it occupies Arab land and indulges in killing, terrorism, and the displacement of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and as long as Jerusalem remains under Israeli rule and the Israeli nuclear threat hangs over Arab national security and menaces any peace agreement. I believe that these efforts to oppose normalization are continuing and are on the right track. One proof of this is that all the Arab countries recently refused to participate in funding the Middle East Development Bank, which would benefit Israel. Further proof is that many Arab countries halted certain normalization measures as scheduled. There is no doubt that this stance is necessary and serves to remind us of the danger from Israeli and promotes a firm defense of the Arab cause. To realize these efforts, all Arab countries must stop participating in the multilateral talks, which aim at regional cooperation with the Arabs and the establishment of a Middle East Market without Israel making any commitment to withdrawal. There must be joint Arab action and the intifadah must be revived.

['Azazi] Were you surprised by the U.S. use of the veto in the Security Council to block an international resolution condemning the Israeli settlement policy in Jerusalem?

[Qaddumi] I was not very surprised by the U.S. veto. Yet I was one of the most ardent advocates of having a decision of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council raise the Jerusalem issue at the Security Council. I wanted to expose this U.S. stand by testing it on one of the most vital issues concerning Arab and Palestinian rights. The U.S. Administration had to face a sensitive issue involving international law, charters, and agreements. But it rejected all this and resolved to show its bias toward Israel. From this we can infer that the United States is not a full partner in the settlement process, as some people say, but was a full partner in Norway in imposing capitulationist solutions on the Arabs in accordance with Israel's plans and in improving the ugly image of Israel's racist policy for the international community. We have no confidence in the U.S. Administration or in the credibility of its decisions, stands, and measures. Everyone must be convinced of this now, in view of so many indications of this biased stand.

['Azazi] What next, now that the Oslo peace slogans and the slogans of international legitimacy have fallen in the wake of the U.S. veto?

[Qaddumi] There is no alternative but Arab solidarity, established on sound bases. It is shameful and humiliating to let the state of retreat and divisions within the Arab nation continue when we are in dire need for cohesion and solidarity. The truth is that for a long time the Palestinian cause brought the Arab nation together in one bloc. We must return to that situation once again, because our cause is basically an Arab cause and because Israel will not just harm the Palestinians but will affect every inch of Arab soil. The Arab governments have to remember that Israel's nuclear and space power is ready to be use to impose Israeli hegemony over all of them and that Israel will not back down on its intention to control the Arab nation, because it knows that a just and comprehensive peace will mark the beginning of the end of the State of Israel.

Therefore we need to forget the differences of the past and turn a new page of Arab solidarity. We must unify our concepts, programs, and policies toward the Palestinian cause and Syrian and Lebanese rights, and reject all plans but pan-Arabism. We must follow all forms of pan-Arab cooperation that benefit from Arab resources and capabilities and not make the Arabs a political and economic tool that serves the Israeli enemy.

['Azazi] With the date for the Israeli elections getting nearer, do you expect substantial changes in the settlement process?

[Qaddumi] What substantial or positive change could we possibly expect from any Israeli government? Everyone there is bound by imperialist, expansionist, and prosettlement sentiments. They all agree on swallowing Jerusalem piece by piece and on turning it gradually into Israel's eternal capital. In any case, we have neither confidence nor trust in the Labor Party or Likud, because both of them are relics of Israel's schemes. A historic analysis of the coming years [as published] reflects this quite clearly. It was the Labor Party that repeatedly declared war on the Arabs. It is the one leading the mightiest Zionist scheme to expand and build settlements and annex more Palestinian territory. It was the Likud that succeeded in signing an agreement with Egypt during the darkest period in the history of the Palestinian cause. Likud began the Madrid process, which ended with a number of meager agreements that have not restored any Arab rights. Hence, the competition between these two parties is over which one will achieve more gains and get more Arab concessions for the State of Israel and inflict more losses on the Arabs at all security, economic, and political levels, but without any progress toward ending the Israeli occupation, establishing an independent Palestinian state, or vacating south Lebanon and the occupied Golan Heights.

U.S. Stand on Aid Shows 'America's Ugly Face'

*JN2006104895 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
16 Jun 95 pp 7, 8*

[Editorial: "U.S. Congress Obstructs Peace March"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have decided to allocate $14 billion in foreign aid for next year. The House and the Senate, however, decided to tighten control on funds allocated for the Palestinians, which are very limited. They total around $150 million. But why don't the House and the Senate tighten control on funds for the states that receive $3 billion annually, such as Egypt and Israel?

After signing the Oslo accords, the United States has pledged a certain amount of aid, as part of an international campaign to support peace and stability in the region. The United States, as a donor nation, knows that the Palestinians must receive funds, since their economy and infrastructure have collapsed over 28 years of occupation. Economy, development, and progress are the factors that will determine the success of the peace agreements. The Palestinian individual will not accept these agreements if he does not feel his worth and that his living standard has improved.

Since the Republican Party took over the majority in the House and Senate, there has been opposition to all the Administration's commitments toward many nations. This majority wants to blow up the very foundations of the agreement to please Israel and thwart the self-rule experiment. This majority thinks the PLO still supports terrorism and that it has not complied with the peace accords. This stand conflicts with the truth and facts on the ground, as the Israeli Government has acknowledged. Apparently, the U.S. Congress is more Jewish than the Israeli Government itself and its stand is identical to the stand of the extremist right-wing parties in Israel. The U.S. Congress, which was elected a few months ago and was dominated by the Republican Party opposition, disregards the fact that the United States — the sole superpower — has responsibilities toward security and stability worldwide and that unsound positions do not serve U.S. interests.

The U.S. Congress challenge to the U.S. Administration and its unfamiliar intervention in foreign affairs will deprive the Administration of its prestige and capability to maneuver in the international political arena. When the Congress sets difficult conditions for the Administration to extend aid to the Palestinians — and when it sets difficult conditions for the U.S. agencies which extend humanitarian aid to the Palestinians — this Administration will lose its influence on the U.S.-sponsored peace process. When the U.S. Administration presents its assessment and acknowledges that the Palestinians are implementing the agreement and when the Israeli Government itself supports this while the Congress insists on rejecting these testimonies, this indicates a loss of confidence between the Congress and the U.S. Administration. This, consequently, will result in undermining the efforts made by the United States to build a new Middle East.

It is known that U.S. aid comes from the money of the U.S. taxpayers, namely, the American people, and that the Congress represents the people. However, what is taking place in Washington in terms of the conflict between the Congress and the Administration, is similiar to removing a person's head because of a pain in the nose. This confrontation appeared clearly in the Congressional decision to move the Israel Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem despite the Administration's opposition. It never happened in the history of the United States or the world that the representatives of a people interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. By doing so, the Congress is stabbing the peace efforts in the region and serving both the Palestinian and Israeli extremists. The Palestinians are looking at what is happening in Washington with bitterness, not out of ingratitude for America's aid to the Palestinians over the past long years, but because they cannot believe that the Congress can paralyze the Administration and obstruct its decisionmaking. This would not have happened had the members of Congress realized the insult inflicted on America as a result of their decisions which show America's ugly face.

Yusuf: PA Ready To Take Responsibility for W. Bank

JN1706091595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 17 Jun 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Nasr Yusuf, official in charge of the Palestinian police force, has stressed that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] is fully prepared to assume responsibility in the West Bank towns from which the Israeli Army will withdraw in accordance with the Declaration of Principles agreement, signed by the PLO and Israel.

In a telephone interview with AL-ASWAQ from his office in Gaza, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf said the PNA took control of the Gaza Strip when the self-rule agreement was first implemented under very difficult conditions and with meager Palestinian resources. Today, the circumstances are much better and are in favor of the PNA, which is now ready to assume its responsibility in the West Bank towns as soon as the Israeli Army units complete their redeployment. The PNA and Israel have not yet reached agreement on that redeployment.

Yusuf said the differences that still prevent a redeployment of the Israeli Army are basically related to the size of the areas covered by the redeployment.

Asked about the visit which some Palestinian officers made to some West Bank towns, Maj. Gen. Yusuf said Palestinian police personnel make routine daily visits to the West Bank towns. He said these visits were not aimed to agree on a date to hand over responsibility, but are part of the framework of the current negotiations on the Israeli Army redeployment in the West Bank towns.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf stressed that the Palestinian Authority will bring in Palestinian police units from abroad when the Israeli Army units start their redeployment in the West Bank towns in order to help maintain security in these towns. He noted that these units will include Palestinian personnel based in Jordan. [passage omitted]

100 Officers Arrive in West Bank as Security Force

TA1906061995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last few days some 100 Palestinian officers have arrived in the West Bank, where they started establishing another security apparatus to be headed by General 'Atallah 'Atallah [Abu-al-Za'im]. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that these officers served under Abu-al-Za'im in PLO military intelligence in Lebanon.

Police Warn of Planned Attacks To Undermine Peace

NC1906155395 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 19 (AFP) — Palestinian police on Monday [19 June] warned they expected extremists to launch attacks to undermine peace efforts after putting on show a large quantity of seized mines and explosives.

Colonel 'Abd-al-Mu'ti al-Sab'awi showed reporters 25 mines spread across a table, together with a couple of smaller explosives and some electric wires found about three days ago.

He said a member of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), led police to the cache after he defected and reported the dealer.

"This amount was offered to the al-Qassam member...he reported the dealer who trades in death and blood," said al-Sab'awi, refusing to reveal either's identity as both were under investigation.

He pledged that security forces would continue to fight the militants "until we totally overcome them."

Al-Sab'awi added: "We are at a very sensitive phase in negotiations over the West Bank, and we won't hide from you that we expect at this time a military operation," meant to endanger the peace efforts.

The attack could be by Palestinian or Israeli extremists because "unfortunately the Israelis right and our brothers in Hamas have the same aim: to damage the peace process and prevent the PLO from moving to the West Bank," he said.

However, al-Sab'awi praised some Hamas members who had "returned to their senses and are convinced that military actions at this point would damage Palestinian life."

Al-Sab'awi said the explosives weighed a total of 250 kilograms (550 pounds), each loaded with TNT.

Made from left-over war material, the mines had become more sensitive and flammable with time and poor storage.

PA Sets Up 'Secret' Firm To Purchase Jerusalem Land

TA1806085695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jun 95 p i

[Report by Steve Rodan and Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Authority chief Yasir 'Arafat has secretly established a company to purchase property in Jerusalem in advance of negotiations with Israel over the future of the city, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

In a letter obtained by THE POST, marked "top secret" and authenticated by Palestinian sources, a top PA official says the company has been given an initial $15 million to buy land in eastern Jerusalem and the Old City.

The official warns that the activity must remain secret, particularly from Israel and the United States, to prevent an uproar that could torpedo the peace process.

The August 7, 1994, letter was written by PA Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi to the head of PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction], Samir Hulaylah. PECDAR is the agency that nominally handles the hundreds of millions of dollars sent by the international community to help the PA.

Al-Nashashibi says the goal of the company is to "firmly plant our feet and enlarge our presence in an effective and strong manner" in Jerusalem. He said the company would be chaired by Ahmad al- Tibi, an Israeli Arab who serves as 'Arafat's adviser on the peace process. Al-Tibi would head a six member board comprised of senior Fatah activists in Jerusalem.

One board member is Bassam al-Sayigh, son of the long-time chairman of the Palestine National Council, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Sayigh, who resigned his post in late 1993 after the signing of the Israel- PLO accord. The younger Sayigh is a senior Fatah member ?n Jerusalem.

The other members are Fayiz 'Ubaydi, a contractor; 'Abd Abu- Dhiyab, one of the heads of East Jerusalem Electric Corp.; attorney 'Ali Ghazlan; and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Abu-'Asab, a wealthy businessman. The late Tawfiq Abu-Zahrah is also listed as a board member, but the reference is apparently to his son, Mustafa, a Fatah activist.

Al-Tibi dismissed the report with contempt, saying no such letter had been sent. "It is not credible and not genuine," he said, hinting it may have been a forgery designed to embarrass the PA.

"I spoke to al-Nashashibi and he said that he never sent such a letter," al-Tibi said. "It seems it was so secret that I was not informed that I was the director of this company."

At the same time he added, "Palestinians reserve the right to defend their properties in east Jerusalem." Before the Oslo agreement the PLO attempted to establish various funds to buy up Arab properties.

In the letter, al-Nashashibi warns that the purchase of land must not be attributed to the PA "in order that it not be exploited against us for political purposes in international forums by the other side and damage the peace process and the reputation of the Palestinian National Authority." The term "other side" referred to in the letter appears to be Israel.

The disclosure of the letter comes a week after the PA announces it was reviving the East Jerusalem Municipal Council, disbanded by Israel in 1967.

It is not clear how much, if any, property has already been bought by the PA-established company. Government sources said Saudi Arabia has transferred million of dollars to the PLO for what they believe is aimed at financing the construction of houses without permits in eastern Jerusalem.

A PA sources says 'Arafat and his aides have long been worried by construction of housing for Jews in eastern Jerusalem as well as attempts by Jews to purchase Arab property in the city. Over the past few months, the source said, Jibril al-Rujub, head of the PA's preventive security apparatus in Jericho, has sent undercover agents posing as middlemen for Jewish buyers to ferret out Arabs interested in selling their property.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 18 June in a similar report by Nadav Shragay on pages A1, A2 adds that "analysts who examined the letter at first suspected it was a forgery because of the use of language not commonly employed in official correspondence; however following careful examination they reached the clear conclusion that the letter was authentic and had indeed been sent to PECDAR. Developments in the field, the analysts added, indicate that Palestinian land-related activities in Jerusalem are directed and coordinated. The activities in Jerusalem, which according to the letter are orchestrated by the PA, contravene both the Oslo and Cairo agreements." Later on in the report HA'ARETZ notes that "the Civil Administration spokesperson who looked into the matter said: 'we have absolutely no information on this matter.'"]

More on Plan To Purchase Property

TA1906113695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 95 p A4

[Report by Yosef Algazi and Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Additional documents, which seem to indicate the Palestinian Authority's [PA] intention to attempt to purchase real estate in East Jerusalem, were published yesterday. In reaction, PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called this "yet another cheap plot." A statement published by a PA official yesterday said that the PA had decided to demand that the Israeli Government conduct a thorough investigation "in order to discover who was behind this distribution of false documents."

According to the PA, the documents published yesterday and on 17 June were forged as part of a disinformation campaign by extreme right-wing circles with the aim of sabotaging the peace process on the eve of the signing of the new agreement. "They seek to embarrass the Israeli Government more than they want to embarrass the PA. It is no coincidence that some of the people mentioned in the documents are employed at the Orient House in East Jerusalem," the PA official said. The PA was reportedly considering legal suits against some of the newspapers which published the documents.

Yesterday, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi said that PA Treasury officials, when presented with the documents, asserted: "these are childish forgeries. The documents are written in faulty Arabic and the forged signature of Treasury head Zuhdi al-Nashashibi is not very convincing."

Among the documents disseminated yesterday is a letter allegedly sent in August 1994 from the Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) to PA Treasurer Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi. The letter confirms that PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's instructions with regard "to establishing a real estate company centered in Jerusalem, which would purchase properties in East Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state, and the Old City" have been fulfilled.

Right-wing sources claim that analysts believe that the letter — a copy of which was sent to HA'ARETZ — came in reply to the instructions on the matter sent 10 days earlier by al-Nashashibi to PECDAR (which were reported by HA'ARETZ yesterday). The missive stated that contact had been made with "brother Ahmad al-Tibi," and that the latter had supplied "the financial information, the way, and the means," in which he preferred to receive the sums needed to begin the project.

According to these sources, the letter, signed by Samir Hulaylah, an aide to Abu-'Ala' [Muhammad Quray'], states: "the money-transferring process is sophisticated and convincing, and the other side, regardless of its ability, will be unable to discover how the transfer was made. We have contacted the financial source which transferred (the sum) to him, and he has confirmed the money's arrival. We wish to inform brother commander Abu-'Amar [Yasir 'Arafat] that the orders have been implemented fully and in complete secrecy."

The sources claim that the letter is printed on official PECDAR stationary and is marked "top secret," just like the PA's instructions on this matter to PECDAR. The letter also carries a handwritten message stating: "the perusal of this document is forbidden without special permission from the president."

An investigation by HA'ARETZ into the identity of the members of the special committee, reportedly mentioned in the PA's letter of instructions to PECDAR (published yesterday) indicates that at least some of them were indeed involved in land deals and money issues pertaining to the Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Over the past few months, many properties have been purchased in East Jerusalem with the PLO's encouragement. One of them is a house on Qumranim Street in the Old City purchased from a man called Samir Hazu.

Two other letters received by HA'ARETZ yesterday show that in August 1994, the PA instructed PECDAR, via al-Nashashibi, "to purchase buildings containing ten apartments or more," and allocated $12 million for this purpose. PECDAR is warned that this activity should not be conducted on behalf of the PA, "in order to avoid exposure (of the PA)." These letters also mention Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi as the head of the committee handling the matter.

PECDAR's reply to al-Nashashibi from 31 August 1994, says that "the transfer of $12 million in the same way is no longer possible," and that "half the sum ($6 million) can be transferred at once with the other half being paid a month later." The letter states: "Brother Dr. al-Tibi has agreed to divide the sum and said that there is no urgent need at the moment and therefore a delay will cause no harm." These two letters are also classified as "top secret."

Authority Denies Reported Plan

JN1806191195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Statement by "an official Palestinian source"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority holds THE JERUSALEM POST responsible for the fabricated news it published on what it called the formation of a committee to purchase lands in the city of Jerusalem. The source added that the authority urged the Israeli Government to hold an official investigation of the forged papers the newspaper mentioned and to expose the accomplices and their objectives

Concluding, the Palestinian source said that the report published by THE JERUSALEM POST is part of the misinformation campaign to strike the peace process.

PA Denies Funds to Israeli Arabs To Form State Lobby

TA2006105195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat ordered $10 million allocated to Israeli Arab parties and municipalities to form a lobby for the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to documents obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

But Palestinian Authority [PA] officials declared the documents a forgery obtained and distributed by right-wing Israeli circles to embarrass the government.

In a letter dated August 15, 1994, and marked top secret, to the chairman of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), Palestinian Authority Finance Minister Muhammad al-Nashashibi reports a decision by 'Arafat to invest millions to spread his influence in the Israeli Arab sector.

"...The activity of the Palestinian National Authority should spread inside Israel and concentrate on the Arabs," the al-Nashashibi letter says.

Al-Nashashibi says responsibility for the recruitment of Israeli Arab support has been given to 'Arafat's adviser Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli citizen.

"Comrades ought to be chosen from among the members of the Knesset, municipal and local councils, philanthropic organizations, cooperatives, villages, and churches to gain their collaboration," the letter says.

Al-Nashashibi says the $10 million will be immediately allocated to help Arab councils cover their deficits and as contributions to church leaders and philanthropic organizations.

The letter ends with al-Nashashibi urging that the funding be kept secret.

In a response to al-Nashashibi dated August 23, the PECDAR chairman, whose signature is illegible, says that al-Tibi was contacted about funding a pro-PA lobby among Israeli Arabs. Al-Tibi, the letter says, received the $10 million in a foreign bank account.

"We have contacted Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who has visited our office personally and he prefers not to talk on the telephone," the letter says. "He assured us of the necessity to pursue the transfer in the same way."

In an August 31, 1994 letter to al-Nashashibi, PECDAR reports that al-Tibi was given $6 million for a secret fund to buy property in Jerusalem. The figure was half that allocated by 'Arafat.

"The transfer of the amount of $12 million in the same way is not easy now," the letter says. "The comrade, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi has consented to divide the amount and has affirmed that there is no urgency and no prejudice will come out of the postponement."

The PA correspondence has been sent to a congressional body investigating PLO assets and how the authority has used Western donor funding.

Al-Nashashibi maintains the letters are forgeries. But Palestinian and independent sources who have examined the letters says they appear authentic, although probably not written by al-Nashashibi. The Palestinian sources say numerous letters by the PA are written in the names of various officials, some of whom have no knowledge of the correspondence.

Al-Tibi dismissed the letters, which contain typing and grammatical mistakes, as a forgery. "It's an attempt by amateurs," he said. "The letters have so many mistakes they couldn't have been written by any self-respecting person. I know exactly who is behind this."

Samir Hulaylah, a director of PECDAR whose signature appears on some of the letters, also said the correspondence is a fabrication.

"I think it is baseless and not worth commenting on," he said. "Everything here is false, including the signatures."

PFLP Statement Accuses 'Arafat of 'Scheme To Divide'

NC1906104395 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement signed by the rank and file of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Red Eagle in occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Beirut urges members to rally around George Habash's leadership to thwart Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's scheme to "divide the PFLP."

The statement, received by AL-SAFIR yesterday, says that 'Arafat is continuing "his intensive efforts to divide and fragment the PFLP inside the occupied territories." It adds: "These efforts have reduced the influence of the PFLP, particularly after the National Movement for Change [al-harakah al-wataniyah li al-taghyir], led by Khudr al-Mughrabi and Yusuf al-Mujrimi, seceded from the mother front. 'Arafat financed the National Movement for Change and opened offices for it in various areas of the occupied homeland."

The statement also refers to the secession from the PFLP of the Palestinian Democratic Grouping [al-tajammu' al-dimuqrati al- filastini], led by Yusuf Abu-'Atwan, Faris Yaghi, and Hamdi Faraj. It notes that the PFLP organization in the United States also suffered a pro-'Arafat split led by splinter group leader Jimmy.

The statement adds: "Through these three secessions, 'Arafat has weakened the PFLP. The big threat is now posed to the entire PFLP after 'Arafat succeeded in nurturing a wing within it that is loyal to him. This wing is led by the renegade Abu-Nidal Muslimi, who is assisted by Taysir Qubba'ah, Ghazi Abu-Jiyab, Talal Ahmad, Fawwaz Khalifah, 'Abd-al-Halim al-Ghul, 'Azmi al-Khawajah, Riyad al-Maliki, Kayid al-Ghul, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Ghul, Nabil al-Masri, Muhammad Ghadiyah, Salah Salah, and Isma'il Salim."

The statement says that 'Arafat "gave the leaders of this wing jobs in his Authority's departments in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and maintained the privileges of those who remained in Lebanon and Jordan."

The statement calls for "excising this wing which poses a big danger to the PFLP."

The statement notes that the frightening thing is the role played by the middle-of-the-road "opportunist" wing led by Abu-'Ali Mustafa, Jamil Majdalawi, Walid al-Ghul, Usamah Zayid, 'Umar Qattish, 'Abd-al-Rahim Mulawwah, Abu-'Ali Suwaydan, Salah al-Aswad, 'Abd-al-Latif Ghayth, all of whom are members of the PFLP's Central Committee.

The statement says that the danger of this wing lies in the fact that it humors and covers up for the first wing.

The statement urges "our pan-Arab and nationalist stream under George Habash, Mahir al-Tahir, Rami al-Kayyali, Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad, Husayn Abu-al-Naml, and Marwan al-Fahum to become active within the PFLP's rank and file all of whom stand behind Habash, the symbol of the front's aspiration to return to Palestine."

It continues: "Let us besiege the advocates of surrender and restore to the PFLP its pride and make it again a shining example to our people."

The statement urges "our comrades in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to reject the crumbs that are offered, turn down the job offers from the self-rule authority, refuse to accept the temptations and money from 'Arafat, and adhere to the PFLP's heritage and historic stands."

It adds: "Our rights in Palestine are more important than all of 'Arafat's jobs and authorities. Let us raise our voices against Abu-Nidal Muslimi in Gaza. His threats will not frighten us."

The statement concludes with a call to lay siege to "'Arafat's policy of provoking repeated divisions within the PFLP to fragment it."

'Most Wanted' Palestinian Says Jihad Will Continue

MS1906105995 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 17 Jun 95 p 17

[Report by Anton La Guardia: "Islamic Jihad Threatens More Suicide Bombings"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus — The Palestinian at the top of Israel's "most wanted" list, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, has vowed that Islamic Jihad's campaign of suicide bombings against Israelis will continue.

But despite the succession of "martyred" bombers, who have killed scores of Israelis in the past year, Islamic Jihad and the larger Hamas movement have failed to destroy the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Israel says it is ready to press ahead, slowly, with the second stage of Palestinian autonomy. This would extend self-rule from Gaza and Jericho to the West Bank and lead to Palestinian elections.

Israel acknowledges that Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority has helped to limit the activity of Islamic extremists through arrests and arms seizures. Attacks against Israelis have died down in the past couple of months.

Jordan recently expelled two leaders of the Hamas movement. Now the extremists may also lose their haven in Syria. A US-mediated "security understanding" between Israel and Syria has generated a burst of optimism that the two sides may after all, sign a peace agreement in the coming months.

Mr al-Shaqaqi knows that would mean the end of his stay in Damascus.

"It would make it more difficult to continue our Jihad, but it will not end it. We will have to find another place to fight from. We may have to change tactics," he said.

"Most of our organisation is inside Palestine. Here in Damascus we do not have much luggage. We could move in an hour."

Throughout the period of talks with Israel, Syria has been host to the 10 Palestinian opposition factions, ranging from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, to the new breed of Islamic hardliners like Mr al-Shaqaqi.

They have been allowed to denounce Israel and coordinate policy but overt planning of anti-Israeli attacks has not been allowed.

Syria has thus sought to harness the Palestinian opposition to exert pressure on Israel, while seeking to limit further damage to its international image of a "terrorist state".

Islamic Jihad was responsible for perhaps the most daring recent attack in Israel: the double suicide bombing at a bus stop crowded with soldiers near the Mediterranean resort town of Netanya in January.

Mr al-Shaqaqi, 44, who worked as a doctor in Gaza before being expelled by Israel in 1988, said: "We want to escalate our Jihad (holy war) because, if we do not, our whole cause will be lost soon.

"Israel will give Gaza and parts of the West Bank in a bad deal. The rest of Palestine will be lost. Israel will dominate and be recognised as the central power.

"But even if we are defeated, we will remain the conscience of the Palestinians to tell them that Palestine will be free and Arab - - may be in 10 years, 20 years or even 100 years."

Campaign To Counter Israeli Propaganda Seen

MS1606130795 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 16 Jun 95 p 7

[Report by David Gardner: "Arabs 'Losing East Jerusalem Fight'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel could succeed in putting its occupation of Arab east Jerusalem beyond the reach of negotiation and diplomacy unless the Arab world reacts quickly, according to the International Campaign for Jerusalem, formally launched yesterday in London.

The campaign, inspired by leading figures in the Palestinian diaspora, aims to counter what it regards as a largely successful Israeli propaganda campaign presenting all of the holy city — including the eastern quarter annexed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — as Israel's rightful capital.

Successive UN Security Council resolutions since 1967 have condemned the occupation of east Jerusalem and the West Bank as illegal. In spite of this, Israel has used a discriminatory housing policy inside the city and an extensive Jewish settlement policy around the eastern quarter to ensure that Arabs in the east and within "greater Jerusalem" are in a minority.

Under the 1993 peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), control over the divided city will not be discussed until next year. Palestinians regard the eastern quarter as the capital of the future national state they hope will emerge from the peace negotiations.

Dr Ghada Karmi, chairwoman of the campaign and a native of Jerusalem, said that because of Israeli settlement policy and confiscation of Arab land, "the city we knew is disappearing before our very eyes, and will shortly be beyond recall."

Professor Edward Said, a leading Palestinian polemicist said Israel was "gouging out a gaping hole in the (occupied) territories", by cutting off the West Bank from its natural hub of east Jerusalem. Under delayed and still problematic negotiations between the PLO and Israel, Palestinian autonomy should spread from Gaza and Jericho to most of the occupied West Bank through Israeli troop redeployment and elections in Arab towns this autumn.

Arab-Israeli Talks

PA, Israel, EU Envoys Discuss Election Observers

TA1906144495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon in Jericho, representatives of the Palestinian Authority [PA], Israel, and the EU met to discuss the role of the international observers in the elections that will take place in the territories. The EU representative said that some 100 days will be required between the day of the representatives' arrival and the day on which the elections could be held. According to him, the EU countries will send some 300 observers, who will be joined by other observers from Canada, the United States, Russia, Jordan, and Egypt.

Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation, told our correspondent Gay Qotev that the parties are making an effort to complete the discussion of all the technical details in order to make the signing of the agreement possible by 1 July.

Discussions Detailed

JN1906143195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The representatives of the National Authority [NA], Israel, and the EU concluded their tripartite meeting at the Ministry of Local Government in Jericho a short while ago. The meeting tackled issues pertaining to the planned Palestinian legislative elections.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation, began bilateral negotiations. 'Urayqat said that the conferees discussed elections-related principles, voter lists, supervision of the elections, and permitting elections-related vehicles to enter the NA area via Israeli airports and ports.

'Urayqat added that the conferees reached an initial understanding, but that it was not signed as part of official agreements.

On his part, (Jean Sibod), the French representative at the meeting, said that the participants in the tripartite meeting stressed the need to hold the elections no later than three months after the redeployment [of Israeli forces].

The conferees also urged world countries to declare their desire to send observers to the elections.

Israeli Proposal on Partial Agreement Reported

TA1706112495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jun 95 pp A1, A8

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has proposed to the Palestinians to sign a partial interim agreement at the beginning of July, which would consist of three main points:

— A detailed plan for elections to the Palestinian Council in the territories.

— A redeployment by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outside population centers in the West Bank to enable the elections.

In the initial stage Israel would pull the army out of four towns in Samaria: Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. The army would be confined to its barracks two weeks before the date set for the elections to enable campaigning, but would still enjoy freedom of action and movement afterward. The security appendix of the agreement would include the new security arrangements in the West Bank, which would largely be based on joint patrols and other joint activities by the IDF and the Palestinian Police.

— The Civil Administration powers would be transferred to the Palestinian Council when the details of the implementation are discussed after the agreement is signed in July.

Israel proposes that negotiations about the second stage of the IDF redeployment after the elections — which would include the withdrawal of troops from Bethlehem and Ramallah — continue as soon as the agreement is signed. Israel has cautioned the Palestinians that demands on their part to include other issues in the agreement will lead to a delay in the signing of the agreement and the IDF pullout from the West Bank.

In recent days Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have been lobbying foreign leaders and explaining Israel's position to the effect that the agreement on elections should be finalized first, and that only then should a further IDF withdrawal from Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank be discussed.

Rabin told foreign dignitaries that the main problem in the security negotiations is that Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA], is demanding an agreement on the two stages of the redeployment — before and after the elections — while at this point Israel is prepared to agree to the first stage in which the IDF will deploy outside Palestinian population centers so that the elections may be held.

A senior political source told HA'ARETZ yesterday: "If the Palestinians insist on finalizing now the agreement on the two stages of the IDF redeployment, before and after the elections, the 1 July target date for the signing of the agreement will go up in smoke." [passage omitted]

Eytan Rabin adds: IDF officers say it is totally impossible to pull out of six towns in the West Bank within the framework of the IDF redeployment (the "Spectrum B" plan). The Palestinians are demanding that the IDF withdraw simultaneously from six towns in the West Bank, excluding Hebron, and hand over responsibility for them to the PA.

Senior IDF officers and security sources say that the IDF and other security branches will not be able to vacate six towns in the West Bank all at once. According to them, the security situation should be reviewed after the IDF withdraws from a smaller number of towns, and only then pull out from additional locations. A military source told HA'ARETZ that the IDF is prepared to pull out of three towns only.

Cairo, Jerusalem To Host Transfer of Powers Talks

MM2006090195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jun 95 p 6

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Muhammad Subayh Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Cairo and Jerusalem To Host Transfer of Powers Meetings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's representative to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the transfer of powers negotiations, which used to be held in Cairo, will continue, but alternating between Cairo and another venue near Jerusalem and Ramallah, especially as the negotiations concern the transfer of 32 powers — which requires balanced negotiations involving several committees. This is why it has been agreed to hold part of the negotiations near Jerusalem to facilitate contacts and so that the meetings can be held in the areas in which powers are transferred. This is why the last meeting concerning the transfer of powers was held in a venue near Jerusalem.

Commenting on the recent 'Arafat-Sarid meeting, Subayh said that it inspires optimism. But it is a different story with regard to honoring the dates set for redeployment. There is pessimistic language emanating from Rabin and ambiguous language from Peres — which adversely affects the negotiations. Whereas the Arab side has implemented and complied with the agreements fully at all levels.

Subayh attributed these positions to one main reason that arouses astonishment, as he put it. Namely, Israeli society is leaning toward the right in view of the Israeli leadership's unserious view of the peace concept. Thus the Rabin government must realize that any delay in implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements will harm the peace agreements.

Subayh said that the cornerstone in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations at present is redeployment, the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the cities and villages, the handover of security to the Palestinian police, the setting of an election date, and the transfer of powers.

Meanwhile, an authoritative Palestinian source has denied reports of the killing of three of 'Arafat's guards, stressing that they did not belong to President 'Arafat's guards, but to Force 17.

Algeria

Statement on Meeting With al-Nahdah Leaders

LD1806081595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of the invitation made on 22 May by the head of state to six political formations concerning the written proposals following the bilateral meetings that took place in April, a meeting took place on 15 June at the presidential headquarters between representatives of the Islamic al-Nahdah movement and representatives of the presidency. Here is Djaouida:

[Djaouida] During this meeting, the representatives of the presidency presented to the representatives of the al-Nahdah movement the reply of the presidency to the document that this party had submitted on 9 April. This reply, the text of which was handed out to the press, required answers and clarifications. The meeting also enabled the representatives of the al-Nahdah movement to put forward their viewpoints, particularly the conviction and attachment of their party to the following: the need to base democracy on a constructive, firm, and beneficial opposition; and the need to return quickly to a normal political life in order to avoid complications, on the assumption that stability and security can never be restored by force. The al-Nahdah movement justifies its insistence on the participation of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front] in the dialogue and the presence of those who decided voluntarily not take part in it. By considering itself as shouldering national responsibilities, al-Nahdah wants to be a force that can put forward proposals on the basis that the absence of legitimacy represents the source of the problems the country has been experiencing.

To these viewpoints, the representatives of the presidency gave the following reply: One, the existence of a constructive and beneficial political class is urgently needed by Algeria, which has irrevocably decided to build a pluralist democracy. This is the aim of the state's efforts for the past three years to make the views of the political class be expressed through dialogue and participation in the bodies of the transitional stage and to make them return to the elections. Second, the need to speed up a return to a normal constitutional situation. By considering that the issue of legitimacy that has been raised has been a result of the insistence of the presidency during the multilateral dialogue that took place last year to draw up jointly the path to return to the elections, is considered a hindrance to the dialogue. Public opinion knows who was responsible for it and that it resulted in the decision to hold the presidential elections before the end of the year.

From the beginning of this year, the political class was invited to express their stands on this choice. The dialogue remains open for this purpose, and the head of state stressed this several times personally.

Three, with regard to the national dialogue no-one is excluded when all join the framework and accept the well known constants regarding the dissolved party. Everyone knows the conditions that have been made available to express oneself within this framework. The most prominent of these constants are to give up violence, respect for the Constitution, and respect for the laws of the Republic. These conditions, which were dictated by the commitment to protect the national stability and pluralist democracy, remain always acceptable for the participation in the national dialogue.

Four, the presidency considers that every political party shoulders national responsibilities. The presidency never hesitated in inviting all the bases of the political class to bear their constructive and effective responsibilities to face a crisis whose tragic element is blind terrorism that does not exclude any section of Algerian society.

Five, during the meeting, the representatives of the al-Nahdah movement tried to defend the results of the meeting that took place in Rome with the presence of some political parties. In this framework, those concerned expressed their view that as regards their party, the aim had never been to prefer political dialogue outside the country and, in particular, not to prefer any attempt to internationalize the national crisis. They added that the aim of their party was centered on gathering the best conditions for national dialogue.

Six, in recalling the stand of the state, which considers every attempt to take the national debate outside the homeland as unacceptable and rejected. The representatives of the presidency renewed the encouragement made by the head of state to every initiative inside Algeria and among Algerians themselves and no others.

In conclusion, the representatives of the presidency reached the conclusion that the Rome meeting did not stop at revealing its hidden aspects, which will be judged by the Algerian people.

FIS Reaffirms Commitment to National Covenant

MM1906153195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Salvation Front Assures Its Allies About Meetings With Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies — The Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] has assured its allies in the National Covenant group that the regime's contacts with its leaders are no more than renewed attempts by Algerian officials to reach an understanding. [passage omitted]

In London, sources close to the FIS have said that the Algerian officials who met with FIS leaders, including its leader Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj, repeated their previous offers, calling for a condemnation of violence and compliance with the clauses of the Algerian Constitution as a prelude to the FIS' return to political life.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that officials from the FIS told the National Covenant group, namely leaders of the parties that participated in the second Rome seminar, including officials from the FIS, that the Algerian authorities are insisting in their contacts with FIS leaders on holding the presidential election, come what may, before the end of the year.

The sources said that the FIS leaders urged the Algerian officials to make use of the National Covenant document drawn up by Algerian opposition parties if they were serious in their attempts to solve the Algerian problem.

The sources stressed that the FIS is still committed to this document, and that the meetings with Algerian officials will not affect this commitment. [passage omitted]

FIS Chairman Urges Renunciation of 'Terror'

MM2006093595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Rabeh Kebir Confirms Contacts with Washington; FIS Holds GIA Responsible for Not Condemning Terrorism in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has stated that the FIS wants a political solution to the Algerian crisis. In an interview with AL-HAYAH yesterday, he urged the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] to condemn terrorist operations, which he defined as "any action which violates the Shari'ah" of Islam in Algeria, and said that it would be held responsible if it did not. His words come in the context of a policy which the FIS appears to have begun to pursue with the aim of reacting to the GIA and its threats instead of just ignoring them. Kebir's warning, the fiercest from him against the GIA, noticeably comes after Abderrahmane Amin, "the amir of the GIA," issued a statement sanctioning the killing of the signatories of the "National Covenant," including the chairman of the FIS Executive Committee.

The FIS leader also admitted having contacts with the United States, pointing out that their aim was to explain the FIS views on what is happening in Algeria.

He declined to go into details about the meetings taking place in Algeria between the authorities and FIS leaders but, according to confirmed reports, Shaykh Abbassi Madani, Shaykh Ali Belhadj, and Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani are currently at the Djenan El Mufti residence in the capital and holding meetings in extreme secrecy with generals close to President Liamine Zeroual. This is the first time that Shaykh Hachani, who led the FIS to victory in the 1991 legislative elections, has taken part in the negotiations between the authorities and FIS leaders. He has been in detention since February 1992 without trial. He recently undertook negotiations between the security forces and rioting prisoners in the capital's Cerkaji prison.

AL-HAYAH yesterday asked shaykh Kebir about the truth of the reports about revival of contacts between the authorities and FIS leaders. He replied that "the FIS has been calling for a just and comprehensive political solution to the crisis, and that is why it participated with the opposition parties in drafting the 'National Covenant' document. FIS is willing to contribute seriously to promoting an atmosphere conducive to a just and peaceful political solution, with the participation of the political partners including the authorities, parties, and national figures. We have heard reports about a resumption of contacts between representatives of the authorities and FIS leaders, but they are unclear and unconfirmed. At any rate, the FIS adheres to the search for a just and peaceful solution on the basis of the National Covenant document signed in Rome and rejected by the authorities and the GIA.

Asked if the FIS had dropped its demand for "extensive consultations" with the leaders at home and abroad before negotiations with the authorities, he replied: "The National Covenant stipulates that the FIS has a right to consult with and contact all its organs to crystallize a political solution, just like the rest of the political partners."

On the U.S. claim that he is the contact channel between the U.S. Administration and the FIS, Kebir said: "We have been having contacts with the U.S.

Administration for over a year and a half. They are similar to the contacts with the other foreign states which have interests in Algeria. Through these contacts we seek to explain the FIS position to the foreigners."

Does he fear a split in the Islamic front as a result of the GIA's refusal to commit itself to any outcome from the dialogue between the leaders and the authorities? He replied: "Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj represent the FIS' legitimate and historical leadership and have not joined any other group (as the GIA claims). The FIS ranks are open to anyone who abides by Islam and its rules and who shares the FIS political plan with us." On the U.S. talk of ambiguity in the FIS position on condemnation of terrorism, he said: "We have more than once expressed our condemnation and rejection of every action against civilians, whether they are Algerian or not, as well as our condemnation and rejection of every action that violates the Shari'ah provisions. That is why we have urged and are urging the GIA leadership to condemn and reject all actions which run contrary to the Shari'ah and which are attributed to it or carried out in its name. We also urge it to disclaim all statements attributed to it containing clear violations of the Shari'ah, otherwise it will be held responsible first before God and then before the nation and history."

He said that s convinced that "the vast majority of the Algerian people would support, embrace, and sponsor any just political solution that would spare the public more pain and bloodshed and spare Algeria more ruin and destruction."

Union Leader Predicts Angry Response to Price Rises

LD1706141095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Besides the price of newspapers, which has gone up beginning today, the price of some consumer staples has also risen. Bread will now cost seven dinars a loaf, while milk will cost 12 dinars a liter. Workers are of course unhappy about this. Their trade union representative, Abdelhak Benhamouda [secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers, UGTA], gave his reaction to Linda Attour:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] We are angry. Things are going to get nasty. We'll see what happens between now and the end of June, because I am now in the process of consulting union members. We do not agree to one person or one group of people taking decisions for us. That to us is an unwarranted provocation; it is reckless. What is happening now is recklessness. [end recording]

Employer-worker relations are threatened by a number of strikes, notably among petroleum-associated workers, who plan stoppages as of the 27 June. Abdelhak Benhamouda supports them:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] We will back whatever comes from the mass of workers. Before our ninth congress, we decided, in our capacity as a trade union confederation, to hand the initiative to the shop floor. The confederation thus provides the support for the individual unions. Before, it was the confederation that took the initiative and handled all the disputes.

There is a burst of activity in almost all sectors now — in the building trades, in transport, in finance. Between now and the end of June, we will see the confederation make a strong comeback at grass roots level. [end recording]

Five Newspapers Reportedly Suspended

LD1906123295 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two weeklies in Algeria have been suspended for six months. They are EL HADATH and (EL MAW'ID). The reason for this step was not known yesterday. Ten days ago two other weeklies, EL HOURIA and LA NATION, and the daily EL OUMMA were suspended after publishing an appeal co-signed by the Islamic Salvation Front.

Egypt

Mubarak Views Saudi Ties, Meeting With Press

NC2006111595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Jun 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified domestic correspondents in Alexandria on 20 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia are historic and close. But they recently became somewhat clouded by things published in the two countries' newspapers. ESC Television has received many inquiries about this issue and its viewers would like to hear a statement from your excellency.

[Mubarak] I agree with you that some newspapers and journalists have raised quite a furor about the issue [reference to alleged sexual abuse of an expatriate Egyptian child by Saudi school principal and public flogging of his father when he complained]. Such things happen between two friendly countries and also between countries that are not friends. But Egypt and Saudi Arabia are pillars of the Arab region. Our relationship is a very basic, fraternal, and good one. Many Egyptians live and work in Saudi Arabia. They number about... [pauses] I do not want to state how many. If something has happened the media must not exploit it to drive a wedge between the two countries. This will not happen. The slogans raised by some media do not reflect the Egyptian people's view of their Saudi brothers. Egyptian nationals live in Saudi Arabia. Some Saudis live with us here in Egypt. We must maintain our good and close relationship. My own relations with the custodian of the two holy mosques are excellent. The writers who are writing about the latest issue must consider that many forces are lying in wait to ambush the good relationship between the two countries. They are not happy with it. Therefore journalists must consider the special Egyptian-Saudi relationship. We must not give forces opposed to our good relations and regional harmony the chance to disrupt these relations. Our relations are excellent. We welcome Saudi nationals in our country any time. Egyptians have numerous marriage connections with the Saudis. As for the incident, it can be settled by contacts and through our good relations. The incident occurred in September 1994. I do not understand what brought it to the fore in May 1995, nine months after the event. Is anyone lying in wait for the opportunity to provoke such things? The journalists who wrote about the issue do not know all the facts. To write about an issue and arouse public opinion on it, we must first know the details. Regrettably, those who wrote about the issue do not know the details. They listened to one viewpoint only. The issue is not as big as they make it out. Perhaps errors occurred on both sides. Such issues can be solved very quietly as part of the friendship, brotherhood, and good relations between us. There is no need for all these problems. One of our brother journalists wrote an article in AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday that really surprised me. What is the meaning of his writing a few words in this vein occasionally? Is it because he wants to complicate Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia? This will not happen. I consider the whole thing a passing cloud. Our relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very good. Many of our sons live there and Saudi Arabia welcomes them. Such issues provoke a sensitivity that I hope we will avoid.

[Correspondent] News has circulated in the past few days that a minisummit will be held in Cairo that will include your excellency; the custodian of the two holy mosques, President Hafiz al-Asad; King Husayn, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Is this true and if...

[Mubarak, interrupting] I do not know why the newspapers...

[Correspondent, interrupting] The news agencies and the Yemeni press.

[Mubarak] Oh. Anyway, this is the first time I have heard about this. Still, we are seeking to heal the breach in the Arab body politic. As I said before, it is a question of time. Egypt has good relations with every nation, but when drastic events occur between two countries, things must be repaired before people can sit with each other and discuss things objectively. The first I heard about the minisummit was yesterday and I was surprised. I hope the time will come when we can all sit down together.

[Correspondent] What are the latest developments in the peace process in the region and are these developments proceeding in accordance with the scenario discussed during Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visits [to Cairo]?

[Mubarak] They are now negotiating over the Palestinian issue. I hope they will achieve an agreement on 1 July or perhaps a few days later regarding the redeployment of the Israeli forces and the Palestinian elections. I hope so, because it is very important. The Declaration of Principles must be adhered to. If trust is lost, the process will fail.

There is progress on the Syrian track. They will meet — I think — at the end of this month. I hope there will be progress in the process and that we will proceed in the sphere of peace, which is better than any other sphere.

[Correspondent] Today's newspapers say the information minister told you the view of the Press Syndicate Council and its desire to meet you. What is your comment?

[Mubarak] There is no problem between me and any syndicate. The furor raised over the press law is strange. We have never imprisoned a journalist who has not broken the law. Even the preventive custody they speak of has strict controls. First, they must hold someone in preventive custody. This has not happened so far. No one has been placed in preventive custody for publication crimes. I do not believe anyone will be placed in preventive custody for publication crimes, although the law covers this point.

We are proud of the press and we are proud of the freedom of the press. I have heard a lot of talk and various interpretations. There are forces at work trying to inflame the atmosphere. The pressmen must know that I support them. I support the freedom of expression. I support the press, but the pressmen must help me. For seven or eight years I have been saying in my speeches that there is no need for excess. Many people believe there are excesses. Although there is the terrorism of the pen and although they have complained to me about excesses, they only want their views to be heard. I tell you frankly: I have no objection to meeting the Press Syndicate. Most probably this meeting will take place tomorrow. I have been busy over the past few days. We will see what guarantees we can offer them. I am prepared, but you must help me. Do not ask the impossible. Asking for the impossible is difficult.

Unimaginable excesses have occurred recently. If we want to do something, we can do it. [Words indistinct] The journalists are our brothers. We see them and converse with them. There is no hostility in the way some people are exploiting things and by which they harm the press and journalists. I have no problem sitting with them, listening to their views, and telling them what we are doing. Perhaps they will help us and think with us about solutions. But I do not want anyone to say that I must revoke or not revoke something, because everything has its difficulties and dangers. I will meet them with an open heart.

[Correspondent] Everybody is pinning great hopes on you.

[Mubarak] I am doing my best. You notice that I have not said a word against anyone and have attacked no one. The parties met. If the parties are concerned about the press, they are welcome to be so. But I am more concerned than they. If they do not understand, I am more concerned about the press than they. [Words indistinct] When someone complains about criticism, I am the first to answer him. [Words indistinct] Despite all this our press remains in good shape. God willing, we will find solutions.

Syndicate Head Urges Journalists To Hold Dialogue

NC1606174295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1535 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA) — Press Syndicate Chairman Ibrahim Nafi' has announced that in compliance with the resolutions of the syndicate's general meeting, the Syndicate Council continues to engage in a dialogue with senior state officials. The dialogue aims to contain the crisis resulting from the surprising issuance of Law 93 of 1995, which was rejected by all journalists in their recent general meeting.

In a statement released today, the Press Syndicate head explained that the Syndicate Council is moving with calculated and well-thought out steps in all its contacts. For this dialogue to succeed, the statement added, everybody must listen to the voice of reason so that the dialogue can be conducted quietly, effectively, and without emotional pressures or overreaction that seek to prevent the council from succeeding in its mission and attaining the desired objective of this dialogue.

Concerning reports published in some papers on the existence of a blacklist involving the names of a number of officials or journalists, the statement stressed that no such blacklist had been released by the Syndicate Council, which is the only party authorized to prepare such list in accordance with the resolutions of the general meeting.

The Press Syndicate chief urged everybody to move aside from their path and firmly confront all those lying in wait for the syndicate, its council, and the noble profession of journalism who are trying to ride the wave and take advantage of the situation. These people are engaged in a desperate attempt to harm the honorable profession with the purpose of settling old accounts, causing sabotage, or harming the interests of the homeland, the statement added.

AFP Says Eight Nationals Among POW's in Iraq

NC1906134695 Paris AFP in English
1306 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 19 (AFP) — Eight Egyptians are among a group of mostly Kuwaiti prisoners of war held by Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of the emirate, a Kuwaiti official told a London-based Arab daily on Monday [19 June].

"There are eight Egyptians among the prisoners and we have their names," Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war committee, told the business daily AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM.

Shaykh Salim, who said there were other nationalities among a group of more than 600 prisoners, added "The fate of these detainees is unknown."

He said Arab countries would not be able to reconcile their differences until the prisoners of war issue was settled.

A spokesman for the Kuwaiti prisoners committee on Sunday accused Iraq of sabotaging a tripartite meeting scheduled to discuss the problem by refusing to meet Kuwaiti and Western delegates.

Minister Rules Out Privatizing Military Factories

NC1706131995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1242 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, asserted that the military factories in Egypt will not be privatized, noting that capitalist countries do not apply the prevailing concept of privatization to such factories. He said that the governments of these countries indirectly contribute around 80 percent of these factories' and companies' capital and subsidize them so that they can produce high-quality military equipment.

In statements he made today, Dr. al-Ghamrawi said: The war production sector is not subject to privatization and we cannot put the countries' fate in the hands of private companies which might be subject to changing conditions and circumstances.

The minister stressed the importance of benefiting from the military factories' huge resources in implementing the national development plan, the development of Sinai, and the development projects' infrastructure, such as the power generating plants, irrigation equipment, electrification, and the production of bulldozers used in land reclamation projects. [passage omitted]

Rabin Blasted for Trying To Evade 1 Jul Target

NC1606155395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Jun 95

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Israel and the Meaning of Commitment to the 1 July Date"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli Government is trying hard to look like a hard-liner to the Israeli public and also to look like a tough negotiator, willing to do everything in its power to safeguard what it imagines to be Israel's security interests. To secure that goal, which with the passage of time has become a chronic malady, the Rabin government resorts to creating many problems and hinderences before peace and raising many obstacles to obstruct the implementation of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians.

The Rabin government imagines that by so doing and by engaging in a one-upmanship over the peace process it will reap much fruit in its never-ending struggle with the Likud to garner the support of the Israeli voters in the upcoming elections. It forgets that this means taking a chance on peace and on blowing up the peace efforts in return for mundane and transitory goals that can only result in more suffering by the region's peoples, less chances for security and stability, and destruction of the bridges of trust between Israel and the Arab states that sincerely seek to achieve peace and bolster the atmosphere of regional safety and security.

Intensive international and regional efforts have been exerted recently to promote peace in the Middle East. In the past two weeks, the region has been the scene of extensive efforts to overcome the obstacles facing the peace process. Despite the clear-cut U.S. determination to work seriously and closely with the Palestinians and Israel to implement the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement by 1 July, as the U.S. President said yesterday, the Israeli Government continues to be captivated by its own narrow concepts and obsessed by the symptoms of its chronic maladies by insisting on not honoring this date. It deliberately seeks to enter the labyrinths to search for new partial agreements to delay and break free from past obligations and to wear thin Arab patience as a prelude to blowing up the entire peace process.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday stressed that a wide gap in positions still exists in the negotiations for broadening self-rule in the West Bank and that Israeli procrastination and its periodic problems absolutely cannot be helpful toward reaching an honest and accurate implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Such a statement by an Arab official, who is personally living the experience of dealing with Israel to implement agreements the Israeli Government has already endorsed, does not augur well for future dealings with Israel. Such a statement gives other Arab parties moving toward peace with Israel the worst example of Israel's conduct in handling agreements and honoring pledges and obligations.

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid ruled out the possibility of honoring the 1 July deadline to implement the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This does not serve the cause of peace or the interests of the people of the region, who are searching for peace, as much as it serves the goals of extremists, who are the enemies of peace. If the Israeli Government weighs peace with the balance of elections and one-upmanships over staying in power, the biggest loser will be the Israeli people, whose aspirations to peace and security are being crushed by those rushing to reach power and those searching for personal victories.

Israeli Peace Policy Seen To Prolong 'Instability'

NC1806211695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA) — AL-AKHBAR newspaper has stated that the impact of the state of concern and anxiety that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin deliberately seeks to maintain in the region will not be limited to the Arab side. The Israeli Government will discover at some point how much it is losing by attempting to block the peace process, the paper says.

In its 19 June editorial, the paper notes that the Israeli Government's obstacles and efforts to interfere in the self-rule authority's affairs, its failure to implement agreements on the Israeli forces' redeployment to enable the Palestinians to hold elections, in addition to its continued refusal to allow thousands of Palestinians to return to their country and its keeping of thousands of detainees in Israeli prisons are all acts aimed at prolonging the state of instability.

The paper expresses its hope that the Israeli Government will reconsider its well-known tactics before the modest results that have been achieved diminish and everything blows away with the wind. It says that the issues that require a just and comprehensive solution, such as the Israeli forces' deployment away from populated areas in the occupied West Bank and stopping the building of Jewish settlements, as well as withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanon's southern strip are still undecided.

Article Claims Official Corruption Persists

95LD0075A Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 May 95 p 8

[Article by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan: "The Procession of Official Corruption"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only a month or even less goes by without the Egyptian daily newspapers printing some story about the arrest of the administrator of a local area in Cairo or Alexandria, an engineer in charge of road construction in the area, or an engineering administration director on charges of being bribed to commit a violation, dealing with putting up or pulling down a building, which somehow favors the person offering the bribe. Almost no area has not seen arrests undertaken by the General Administration for the Investigation of Public Funds. This is what happened only a few days ago when a road construction engineer in the Old Cairo area was jailed for receiving a large bribe.

This is the kind of thing that makes many Egyptians ask questions about the function of the local administrative bodies. Do they exist to serve the people or to serve a corrupt group of high officials who have utilized the administrative bodies of the local areas as a means by which to unlawfully enrich themselves and earn their livelihood by means other than those that are in accordance with God's law?

The strange thing is that this corruption does not take place underground. It is something that is open and visible to everyone, young and old. The razing of a building that is in good shape on the pretext that it is liable to collapse is not something that takes place in the dark. It happens day and night, and everyone sees it happen. The building of upper stories on a structure without a permit to do so is not something that happens merely by rubbing Aladdin's lamp. It happens before the eyes of all of the officials of all levels in a local area. Violations in construction specifications are something that happens boldly, right under the nose of the local area's engineering administration, but this body pretends not to see it happen. And all of this takes place without anyone being called to account, until by pure accident the hidden corruption is revealed, and then the General Administration for the Investigation of Public Funds takes action and arrests the official who has been caught red-handed.

At this point our citizens will be asking: "Why was action taken so late? Why was it only by pure accident that the corrupt official was unmasked, and why was this not done by means of government action undertaken by the supervisory agencies? Why was the enormous wealth of the corrupt official something that was not revealed until after he had, for many years, engaged in corruption to the detriment of our citizens, especially since wealth is not something that can be hidden, but rather is something that is openly visible?" A corrupt person does not practice corruption in order to live in front of people in poverty, but rather to enjoy the wealth that he has earned unlawfully.

The government has a number of supervisory agencies that are supposed to pursue cases of corruption among both high-level and low-level officials. For example, there is the Illicit Profits Administration, which was established by the Ministry of Justice. It is composed of a director who is chosen from among the justices of the courts of appeals, and he is assisted by a sufficient number of chief judges of the courts of first instance who are delegated in accordance with the regulations of the judicial authority, and this organization examines acknowledgements of financial liability. There is also the Central Accounting Agency and the Administrative Supervision Authority—an independent body subordinate to the prime minister. The latter's function is to examine and investigate financial violations. There is also the General Administration for Combating Crimes Involving Public Funds, and, finally, there is the Administrative Prosecutor's Office.

How can all of this administrative corruption take place under the eyes of these supervisory agencies without their being aware of it and discovering it until they stumble across it by pure accident?

If it is clear that the most corrupt official agencies in Egypt are the local administrative agencies, why can the monitoring of their activities not be intensified? Why are the corrupt engineers in the local areas allowed to graze in the pastures of corruption year after year, accumulating their wealth without anyone controlling them or calling them to account, until by pure accident they are punished for their evil actions?

Is early detection of the activities of the corrupt engineers not something that is for the benefit of the honest engineers who are complying with their duty of trustworthiness and integrity? Matters should not be muddled, and honest people should not be mistaken for corrupt people, and honest people should be able to work without having to be the victims of mistrust and suspicion or having to be forced to request a transfer to some other area where they will not be the object of suspicion.

I remember, many years ago, when I was chosen to be the chairman of a bidding committee for the purchase of some small equipment. I took the members of the committee along and went to visit the companies to receive their bids before accepting the lowest bid. I was surprised in one of the locations when the company director offered a bid that was higher than what I wanted and, when he understood [from what I said] that the rates that I wanted were lower than what he was offering, he promised to bring me five more bids in sealed envelopes that would be higher than the bid he was offering in order that his bid appear lower than these bids so that he would be awarded the contract.

I then understood how stealing takes place and how bids are accepted that seem to be low bids when they are in fact high ones, because of the existence of false bids that are higher than they are. I immediately sensed that the job I was undertaking was, by necessity, a dirty job, and I was furious at the person who had charged me with carrying out this job. One thing I had to deal with was the fact that nobody would believe that I had rejected this corrupt transaction and everybody thought that the lowest bid that I had received after undertaking considerable effort was not a real bid. Both honest and corrupt people are involved in the job, and in this context they cannot be separated from each other.

This is what I meant when I said that allowing local area engineers to engage in their corruption for many years until they are exposed by pure accident is something that is detrimental to the area's honest engineers—[and this only ends] when the honest engineers feel that it is necessary to abandon this suspect profession, and then the corrupt engineers control everything.

I do not know whether this is something that has already actually happened or whether it is about to happen. But allowing corrupt engineers to work side by side with honest engineers only tends to associate them with falsehood and dishonesty. In fact, it tends to expel the honest ones from the profession, because the well-known rule is that dirty money chases away clean money.

Even more dangerous is the fact that Egyptian citizens feel that unlawful money can buy anything and any official. This is a dreadful feeling, because it forces honest people to constantly be in a situation where they are at the mercy of thieves and people who are capable of corrupting others. They then lose their trust in their nation and their feeling of security.

This feeling of fear becomes more deeply rooted when the law protects people who have the financial capability of corrupting others and the administration does nothing to face up to them.

Two years ago, I wrote about the owner of a building in Alexandria who, by means of corruption, was able to build seven stories on top of a villa in Alexandria, and this turned the villa into a building that was liable to collapse. The seven stories were built right in front of the eyes of the local area administration. It turned out that the owner of the building had received a permit to build five of the stories, even though the villa's foundation could not support more than what the foundation of a villa [normally] supports.

I figured that the authorities would order that an investigation be conducted concerning those who had permitted the violation, that some high officials would be relieved of their posts for not being aware of what was going on under their noses, and that the Ministry of Finance would send its accountants to the owner of the building, who had committed the violation and who had such enormous capabilities of corrupting other people, and find out what his sources of income were.

But I was surprised when nobody took any action. Even stranger than this was the fact that, instead of arresting the owner of the building who had committed the violation and calling him to account for building the additional stories that had threatened the lives of the building's residents and neighbors and instead of rushing to pull down the building's stories that had been been in violation of the law in order to protect the building from imminent collapse, the legal authorities protected the owner of the building who had committed the violation.

Although the Engineering Administration of the Governorate of Alexandria had decided to tear down the stories that were built in violation of the law and had decided that it was necessary for the owner of the building to make the necessary repairs by replacing crumbled masonry, the legal authorities allowed him to appeal the decision of the committee that deals with razing buildings that are liable to collapse. This means awaiting the verdict of the court of first instance to which the appeal was submitted.

Everyone knows that it takes several years for such a verdict to be rendered and that, during that time, the building will keep on being like a sword pointed at the building's residents, neighbors, and neighboring buildings. This is exactly what has happened, because the verdict still has not been rendered, even though this case came out into the open exactly two years ago.

The owner of the building who violated the law is still being treated as an honest person, and he still has the right to threaten the lives of his fellow citizens. The strange thing is that the residents left because they feared for their lives, and they are still living as refugees. They are awaiting a court decision that might be reached in 10 years, or perhaps sooner or longer than 10 years from now. In the meantime, the owner of the building who has violated the law continues to enjoy his wealth and to live under the roof of a luxurious building somewhere else.

We see such crimes being committed before the very eyes of the public, and none of the four supervisory authorities are calling anyone to account. So far the officials in the area who granted the permit to the building owner to build seven whole floors on top of a small villa have not been called to account for their actions. They are still engaging in their corruption and being bribed to grant such permits, and they are setting an example for honest engineers, telling them that they can do the same thing without fear of being called to account or punished.

At the same time, the stories that are in violation of the law are still on top of the structure that is liable to tumble down, and the governorate authorities are powerless to intervene and tear them down until the court of first instance renders a verdict to make this possible. In other words, the government authorities, represented by the Governorate of Alexandria, is unable to tear down two stories in a building that is liable to collapse, even though its own engineering administration, after examining the building, stipulated that this should be done.

And this is not all. The owner of the building that is liable to collapse legally has the right to continue renting furnished apartments in the building to summer vacationers as long as the appeal of the decision made by the engineering administration has not yet been decided on by the court of first instance. This led the residents of the building, who left the building out of fear for their lives, to demand that water and electricity be cut off in the building in order to protect those who would be visited by death if they moved into the building. This was the only measure that the governorate was able to take until the court reaches its decision concerning the appeal.

This is why we say that the corruption in the local area administrations is being fully protected not only by high officials, but also by the law. Permits for tearing down and putting up buildings that are in violation of the law are being granted; they are being respected and honored; and nobody is calling anyone to account for granting them as long as the bribes are given in secret, as long as there is no advance notice given concerning them, and as long as no arrest warrants are issued by the State Security Prosecutor's Office. It is not enough to show proof of the corruption that has taken place concerning these permits and the danger that they pose to the buildings involved, as we have seen in the case of the owner of the building who built five stories on top of a villa that can support only three stories, in spite of the proven danger to the building as a result of the granting of this permit.

The law gives corrupt people the same amount of protection that it gives to honest people. Our citizens can only prove corruption after many years have gone by—sometimes as many as 10 or 20 years—because the case is still in court. Or they can only do this after paying huge amounts of money to lawyers and experts and after decisions are reached by the court of first instance, the court of appeals, and the court of cessation. And the decision always depends on the skill of the lawyers rather than on the right of the litigant to receive his due.

It is no wonder, then, that corruption is getting worse, corrupt people are not being caught, the number of victims is increasing, and corrupt people are encouraged to engage in their corruption without fear of being called to account or punished. Honest people feel that they are being isolated day after day, that their numbers are decreasing, and that more and more of their kind are joining the ranks of the corrupt, the procession of which keeps marching on—feeling perfectly safe and protected by the law.

Sudan

Iranians Said Arriving To Establish Military Base

NC1906151595 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
11 Jun 95 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation comprising 42 members of the Iranian Navy arrived in Khartoum last week and were billeted in the Dar al-Diyafah, al-Jumhuriyah Street. The delegation includes three commodores, eight captains, and 10 lieutenant commanders and lieutenants. The others are technicians.

These Iranians are scheduled to be moved next week to the 'Arusah area on the Red Sea where they will join another group of Iranians who form the nucleus of an

Iranian military base on the Red Sea. The base is part of the political agreement and military protocol signed recently by the Sudanese and Iranian Governments.

The Sudanese opposition has already warned of the dangers of the Iranian penetration into Sudan, which aims to control the Red Sea and threaten its security.

Official Holds Talks With Iranian Envoy

LD1606115295 Tehran IRNA in English
0651 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, June 16, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador to Khartoum Mehdi Marvi and head of Foreign Relations Commission at the Sudanese Parliament Shakir al-Sarraj [name as received] in Khartoum on Thursday [15 June] discussed Tehran-Khartoum relations.

Al-Sarraj at the meeting described as "fruitful and constructive" the visit to his country last April of Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and underscored coordination of stands between Iran and Sudan to confront arrogant and imperialist attacks.

The two sides also surveyed agreements reached earlier and efforts taken by the joint ministerial committee in this regard.

Official Receives Iraqi Envoy, Views Blockade

JN1606191895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 16 Jun (INA)—Muhammad al- Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly, has urged Arab parliamentarians to support Iraq and champion its struggle to lift the economic blockade which has been imposed on its people for more than five years.

During a meeting with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Khartoum, who handed him a message from the Iraqi National Assembly calling on the Arab parliamentarians to hold an extraordinary meeting to support Iraq's cause, Khalifah stressed the need for Arab action, ending the silence, and work to break the blockade imposed on Iraq after Iraq has fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

The Sudanese parliamentarian reiterated Sudan's support for Iraq's just and legitimate cause as well as Sudan's backing for Iraq in Arab and international forums.

Official Urges Efforts To End Iraq Sanctions

JN1706185195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 17 Jun (INA)—Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Congress, has urged the UN Security Council and the United Nations to demonstrate more fairness and justice by removing the injustice meted out against the Iraqi people. They must comply with the demands of the international community and the world public, which are urging a revocation of the inhumane and unwarranted sanctions clamped on Iraq for the past five years, al-Turabi added.

In a statement to the correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Khartoum, al-Turabi asserted that it is high time the people endowed with living consciences as well as Arab and Muslim leaders adopted a joint Arab-Islamic stand demanding a revocation of the Iraq sanctions.

Al-Turabi urged efforts to break the embargo and support the mujahid Iraqi people and their just and humanitarian cause, particularly since the real and tendencious purposes of the forces hostile to Iraq and the nation have been exposed.

Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi went on to say: The Arab and Islamic peoples and their dynamic forces must be aware of the seriousness of the international plotting. Likewise, they must be aware of the siege, injustice and aggression being meted out against the peoples of Iraq, Libya, Palestine, the Sudan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina by the forces of arrogance, infidelity, and tyranny headed by the U.S. Administration, author of the so-called new world order, which is targeted against Arabism and Islam and aimed at maintaining the state of inertia and divisiveness plaguing Arab ranks.

The secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Congress stressed that the more the U.S. Administration and Zionism showed a determination to perpetuate the siege clamped on the children, women, and elderly people of Iraq in a bid to subdue them, bring them to their knees, and prevent Iraq from playing its traditionally humanitarian, cultural, and Islamic role, the more determined to safeguard their dignity, pride, Islamic identity, and Arabism the Iraqi people become. For this will only prompt the Iraqi people to maintain their firm pan-Arab and national positions, which they are vindicating.

The Sudanese official paid tribute to the steadfastness and jihad of the Iraqi people, who have promoted the Arab and Islamic awakening and unleashed the spirit of jihad against enemies. He expressed his absolute faith that the will to vindicate fairness and the determination of the Iraqi people will defeat the embargo, its purposes, and all the enemies' schemes and plots.

Political Groups Hold Conference in Eritrea

Radio Reports on Attendees

EA1706172095 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference of the Sudanese political forces will be officially opened here in Asmara today. The major political forces, parties, organizations, and influential nationals will take part in this conference, the ERITREAN NEWS AGENCY has reported.

In the past three days, the delegates to the conference have been holding preparatory meetings. The delegates who took part in preparatory meeting have said that this conference will end successfully, and will have a major role on the efforts under way to bring peace, democracy, and stability to Sudan. The delegates also stated that this conference, which is to start today here in Asmara, is the biggest conference to be held in the last six years. The following are present at this conference, which is to start officially today:

1. The Democratic Unionist Party led by Mawlana al-Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani
2. The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement led by Dr. John Garang
3. The 'Ummah Party led by Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im
4. The legal leadership of the Sudanese Army led by General Fath Ahmad 'Ali
5. The Sudanese Communist Party led by Dr. Tijani al-Tayyib
6. The Unionist Party of Southern Sudan led by (al-Sayyid al- Yaba al Surur
7. The Beja (?Council) led by al-Sayyid Muhammad Tahir Abu- Bakar
8. The Sudanese solidarity forces led by Brigadier Gen. 'Abd-al- Aziz Khalid
9. Representatives of the Sudanese trade unions, and prominent Sudanese nationals will also take part.

As can be recalled, this conference is being held here in Asmara following the request by the Sudanese political forces made to the People's Front for Democracy and Justice to hold their conference here in Asmara.

Official Assails 'Dictatorial Regime'

EA1706194695 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The conference of Sudanese political forces has started officially here in Asmara today. [passage omitted]

In his opening speech the secretary of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, Mr. al-Amin Muhammad, said that having noted brotherly relations and economic, political, and security ties between the people of Eritrea and Sudan, the two people will work jointly for peace and stability in both countries, and for the common interest of the Horn of Africa region, and the countries of the River Nile and the Red Sea. Mr. Amin said the people of Sudan are awaiting the outcome of the conference with great anxiety, and the PFDJ [People's Front for Democracy and Justice], and the entire people of Eritrea will give their utmost support to the resolutions adopted by the conference.

Following Mr. Amin, the chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party of Sudan, Mwlana al-Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, having expressed his appreciation of the PFDJ's stance, and the brotherly relations of Eritrea and Sudan, condemned the stand of the ruling [National] Islamic Front regime, which goes against the objectives of Islam and other religions, and above all is opposed to peace and justice. He called on all Sudanese opposition forces to consolidate all their efforts to accelerate the downfall of the unjust and dictatorial regime of the Islamic Front of Sudan.

The chairman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], Dr. John Garang, after asking for a short prayer in memory of the martyrs of Eritrea and Sudan, said we have managed to assemble here in Eritrea thanks to the Eritrean martyrs. He urged the participants to come out with practical resolutions and programs. [passage omitted]

SNG Official: 'Duty To Topple Regime'

MM2006104795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Idris al-Qadi: "Mansur Khalid Tells AL-HAYAH: Aim Is To Topple al-Turabi-al-Bashir Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa — The Sudanese National Grouping [SNG] will resume its meetings Monday [19 June] morning in the Eritrean capital Asmara under the chairmanship of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, its leader and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, amid a heavy presence of opposition organizations and parties. Ummah Party Secretary General 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im has described the gathering as "the largest in the history of the Sudanese opposition" as far as attendance, organization, and topics are concerned.

Dr. Mansur Khalid, member of the Higher Command of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], has told AL-HAYAH that the ultimate aim of the Asmara meetings is not just to come out with a statement "but rather to come out with an integrated program for bringing down the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and to draw up the features of the new Sudan."

In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, Nur-al-Da'im said that the sideline consultations at the Asmara conference have led to a final agreement on 15 out of a total of 17 papers, and that the two remaining papers on which consultations were still continuing were the papers on the form of government and the link between the North and the South. He said that his party was proposing a presidential system for governing Sudan and that, although the relationship between the North and the South was still under discussion, his party had reached agreement with the SPLM on that relationship, combining federation and confederation.

Nur-al-Da'im attacked the Khartoum government, describing it as "a criminal government with no legitimacy and no achievement to its credit." On the link between religion and the state, Nur-al-Da'im stressed that the SNG parties had agreed to return to the essence of the Nairobi agreement. He said that "the Muslims in Sudan are the majority and, therefore, they have to reassure the non-Muslim minorities, especially after the experience of the [National] Islamic Front [NIF] rule in Sudan, which distorted and exploited Islam to hit the opposition in the North and the South."

On the same issue Dr. Mansur Khalid, member of the Higher Command of the SPLM, which is led by John Garang, stressed that the SNG is "the alternative to the NIF regime." Khalid, who was foreign minister under former President Ja'far Numayri, said in a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH that it was the duty of the SNG "to topple the NIF regime and become the legitimate substitute capable of implementing the program to be unanimously agreed on by the Sudanese political forces." He added that "after the downfall of the NIF regime in Khartoum, the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Army will stop the war forever."

He said that the People's Army and other SNG organizations "will lay the foundations of the new Sudan."

Kuwait

Cabinet Holds Session, Announces Aid for Bosnia

LD1806201195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1536 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 18 Jun — Kuwait today hailed the consistency of the stand adopted by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which calls for the Iraqi regime to complete the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to its 1990 aggression.

This was expressed during a cabinet meeting chaired by the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah. The cabinet decided, in its weekly session today, to grant aid to Bosnia in implementation of the amir's wish and to help the Bosnian people overcome the tragic situation to which they are subjected.

At the local level, the cabinet reviewed a report that included proposed amendments to the provisions of Law 41 of 1993 regarding the state's planned purchase of some debts and ways to obtain these amendments with a view to closing certain loopholes in the current law.

The cabinet also listened to a report presented by the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, Nasir 'Abdallah al- Rawdan, on the draft state budget for the 1995/96 financial year. The cabinet decided to refer the statement to the National Assembly for discussion. [passage omitted]

The cabinet then listened to reports from Finance Minister al-Rawdan and Shaykh Salim Abd al-Aziz al-Sabah, governor of the Kuwait Central Bank, on details about the proposed amendments to Law 31, and studies and reports concerning them. [passage omitted]

Amir Begins Official Talks With Malawi President

LD1806104295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0942 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 18 Jun (KUNA) — The official talks between His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and Malawi President Elson Bakili Muluzi were held this morning.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of the amir's office, said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields. Vital issues in the international arena were also raised.

President Muluzi arrived in the country on 17 June on a four-day official visit to Kuwait.

Diplomatic Relations Established

LD2006110395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint statement has been issued both in Kuwait City and Lilongwe on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Republic of Malawi. Following is the text:

Out of their desire to bolster the two countries' relations, to implement the UN Charter, and to protect peace and security in the world, the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Republic of Malawi have agreed to establish diplomatic and consular relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and interests, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

In order to consolidate the strong relations between the two friendly countries, they have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

Investment in Saudi Military Manufacturing Explored

LD1806160095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1449 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 Jun (KUNA) — Rashid al-Mijran, Kuwaiti undersecretary for trade and industry, left Riyadh today following a three-day official visit, during which he examined Kuwait's participation in the General Corporation for Military Equipment.

Before leaving, al-Mijran conferred with Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, [Saudi] minister of finance and national economy, in the presence of the first secretary of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Riyadh.

Yesterday the Kuwaiti official toured the headquarters of the General Corporation of Military Equipment at the town of Kharj, south of Riyadh, and met with a number of its officials.

Al-Mijran told KUNA that the aim of the visit was to discuss Kuwait's participation in the corporation. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Paper Questions U.S. Stance on Bosnia at G-7 Summit

LD1806152695 Riyadh SPA in English
1234 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, June 18, SPA — Saudi national Arabic newspapers today centered their editorials on Saudia's 50th anniversary celebrations, to be patronised later today by Prince Sultan, the latest developments in Chechnya and the stand of G-7 leaders during their summit in Halifax on the Bosnian problem. [passage omitted]

AL-MADINAH said four of the G-7 leaders, who are members of the international contact group on Bosnia, are puzzled and seemed weak in taking a firm action against the Serb aggressors in Bosnia.

It questioned the stance of the United States, which on one hand supported the deployment of international rapid force to safeguard the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia with the funding from the European states, but without disturbing the U.S. Treasury. 'How such a stand can come from the United States, which has shown sympathy towards the conditions of Moslems in Bosnia and at the same time it is preventing defence for them.'

Council of Ministers Discusses Islamic Issues

LD1906195695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1633 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Jun — Under the chairmanship of HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general, the Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this afternoon Monday, 19 June, at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

In a statement to SPA following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said that the council had listened at the outset of the meeting to the report that covers the main events of the hour and the latest developments at the political, security, and economic levels at the Arab region and the Islamic scene.

Within this context and due to their constant interest in the development of events in the hotbeds of tension, the council continued its follow-up of the situation in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Afghanistan. It listened to the second deputy prime minister give a brief explanation about the amount of constant care and continuous attention the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques devotes to Islamic issues and the amount of extensive effort it exerts at the political and humanitarian levels to halt the injustices against the Islamic peoples in the Balkans. He also reported on efforts to bridge the gap in views between the brothers in the jihad in Afghanistan and to stop the hemorrhaging of the blood of the sons of the Islamic people of Afghanistan which had struggled for a long time towards independence and stability. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy Free Trade Zone To Target CIS, Arabs

NC1806090795 Paris AFP in English
0847 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, June 18 (AFP) — The Dubayy free trade zone is planning a drive to attract overseas Arab funds and investors from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), its chairman said Sunday [18 June].

Sultan Bin-Sulayyim said the zone had attracted 804 Western and Asian firms, with investment of around six billion dirhams (1.63 billion dollars).

"The focus of the marketing drive in the next stage will be on Gulf and Arab companies which are investing abroad, especially in Europe and East Asia," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily AL-KHALIJ.

"Another target in the short and medium terms will be the CIS market as those countries are suffering from communications problems which are hindering the access of their products to the Middle East. Jabal 'Ali could be an ideal centre for their companies to set up distribution bases."

Jabal 'Ali, one of the biggest free zones in the Middle East, was established in 1985 as part of Dubayy's drive to diversify its oil-dependent economy. Most of the investors are from the United States, France, Germany, India, Japan and South Korea.

The companies, investing in light industry, services and marketing, have been attracted by the zone's tax exemptions, its location in the heart of a vast consumer region and its port facilities. The zone is served by the biggest man-made harbour, built at a cost of 2.5 billion dollars.

Sulayyim said removal of the crippling United Nations sanctions on Iraq would benefit regional markets, including Kuwait.

"The Iraqi market needs everything now since the international community halted dealing with it after the invasion of Kuwait" in August 1990, he said.

Yemen

Joint Committee Meeting With Jordan Issues Communique

JN1806151095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1217 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Final joint communique issued "at the conclusion of the meetings of the Joint Yemeni-Jordanian Higher Committee" in Sanaa; date not given; read by Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A joint communique on the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee:

At the invitation of His Excellency Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani; as part of completing and continuing the cooperation and coordination and joint action to lay the bases for developing and promoting relations between both fraternal countries in various fields and on various levels in the service of the stability and interest of both peoples; stemming from the belief in affiliation with the Arab nation; out of commitment to the joint higher Arab interest; and as a contribution to achieving Arab solidarity, His Excellency Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has paid a visit to Sanaa.

During the visit, he handed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, may God preserve both of them.

The Yemeni and Jordanian sides held several meetings as part of the fourth session of the Joint Higher Committee held on 17 June 1995 under His Excellency Yemeni Prime Minister brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and His Excellency Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

The meetings were attended on the Jordanian side by His Excellency Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti; His Excellency Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade; His Excellency Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah, minister of health; His Excellency Salamah Hammad, minister of interior; His Excellency Samir Habashinah, minister of culture; His Excellency Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources; His Excellency Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi', Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa; Michel Martu, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan; Dr. Muhammad al-Simadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and head of the preparatory committee; and the tenth, His Excellency Salim Khayr, head of the Prime Minister's Office.

The meetings were attended on the Yemeni side by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry and oil; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of culture and tourism; Engineer Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of communications; Dr. Najib Sa'id Ghanim, minister of health; 'Abduh 'Ali al-Qubati, minister of education; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Rawih, minister of youth and sports; Engineer 'Abdallah Muhsin al-Akwa', minister of electricity and water resources; Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, minister of interior; Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Ifandi, minister of supply and trade; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, Yemeni ambassador to Jordan; Dr. Muhammad Mutahhar al-Sa'ayidi, deputy minister of planning and development; Salim al-Ashwali, deputy governor of the Central Bank; and 'Izzat Amin Nu'man, head of the Prime Minister's Office.

The talks held between the Jordanian and Yemeni sides showed identical views and political vision concerning various Arab and international issues. In this regard, the Jordanian side in the Joint Higher Committee expressed appreciation for the policy followed by the brothers in the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman to resolve the border dispute with a spirit governed by the belief in Arab and Islamic fraternity and by the entrenchment of the bases of good neighborliness and cooperation between the two fraternal peoples.

On 3 June, the final phase of demarcating the border between both countries was reached. This has crowned the efforts exerted to build a model to be followed by the brothers to resolve disputes.

The Jordanian side also expressed satisfaction with the wisdom shown by the Yemeni and Saudi leaders to resolve bilateral differences in terms of the results achieved by the Yemeni-Saudi summit held by His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. This was the beginning of the phase of enhancing relations between the brothers on bases which, God willing, will be a prelude to giving the Arab solidarity and order positive dimensions which will bring good to the sons of the one Arab nation.

In this regard, the Yemeni and Jordanian sides stressed the need to promote and develop inter-Arab relations, cleanse the Arab atmosphere, and restore amity and solidarity based on Arab and international legitimacy in response to joint aspirations and to the Arab peoples' ambitions for more comprehensive and solid relations.

The two sides praised the role played by the Arab League in support and reinforcement of Arab issues within a framework of affinity, rationalism, logic, and a spirit of brotherhood. They noted the importance of continuing to support the Arab League and to reinforce its role as a meeting place for the sons of the one Arab family. Moreover, the Jordanian side said it is pleased with the building of the democratic and unionist edifice in the Yemeni Republic, which confirms the joint willpower of the people and the leadership to achieve the bases of development in order to build a bright future for the Yemeni people founded on firm Yemeni unity.

The Jordanian and Yemeni sides iterated their support for the peace process, which was launched during the Madrid conference in 1991. They also voiced support for the agreements reached within the framework of the land-for-peace principle and for the following tangible progress on all tracks to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace whether on the level of the Palestinian issue or the Arab-Israeli conflict based on international legitimacy, represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. This is in order to achieve a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon, to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and to establish their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Yemeni and Jordanian sides stressed that a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace will only be achieved through equal [mutasawi] and balanced [mutawazin] security for all parties. This is done by disarming the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction — including nuclear weapons — and by subjecting all nuclear facilities to international supervision.

The two sides also noted the importance of ending the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people within the framework of implementing international legitimacy as well as the importance of maintaining the unity, safety, and independence of fraternal Iraq.

Moreover, the Jordanian and Yemeni sides stressed the importance of consolidating international efforts to force the Bosnian Serbs to respect international laws and charters and human rights and to stop the continued violations which, during the past years, have obstructed international efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In order to enhance relations of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all economic, cultural, and social fields, the two sides signed an agreement on trade cooperation; an agreement on promoting and protecting investment; an agreement on land transportation of people and goods; an agreement on commercial sea transportation and seaports; an agreement to bring in Jordanian medical cadres to work in the Yemeni Republic and to coordinate in the field of medical treatment and exchange of expertise; and an agreement on internal affairs and security. Moreover, the two sides signed an executive program for cultural and tourism cooperation from 1995-1997; an executive program for cooperation in the fields of education and higher education and scientific research from 1995-1998; an executive program for cooperation in the fields of youth and sports from 1995-1998; a protocol of economic cooperation between the General Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and industry and each of the Chamber of Industry in Jordan and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce; as well as the minutes of this positive and successful session.

Thank you.

Salih Opens GPC Standing Committee Ordinary Session

JN1906202295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] began its 18th ordinary session at the al-Shawkani Hall at the Police College in Sanaa this afternoon under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the GPC.

The first meeting in this session was opened by Koranic recitations read by Shaykh 'Umar Ahmad (Khalf), member of the Standing Committee. Afterward, the brother secretary general of the GPC delivered a speech. He indicated the importance of this session which is held under new developments and changes on the national, regional, and international levels.

President Salih said this session is particularly important because it is held prior to the convening of the fifth general conference of the GPC, which will be an important turning point in terms of political action in our country and entrenchment of the bases that stem from the principle of political pluralism and peaceful rotation of power. [passage omitted]

The brother president discussed the efforts made by the state and the government on the national, regional, and international levels in the fields of enhancing the national construction, implementing the economic reform program, and promoting our country's relations with the neighboring states, led by fraternal Saudi Arabia.

He said: These relations entered a new phase of distinguished sisterly cooperation after the two countries signed the memorandum of understanding late last Ramadan [February].

President Salih added: The visit I paid to Saudi Arabia early this month was successful and positive by all standards. It opened a new chapter in the sisterly relations between both fraternal countries. We sensed in the Saudi brothers much cooperation, preparedness, and response in terms of returning bilateral relations to their previous status and even promoting them to a level conforming to the ties linking the two peoples in both countries in a way that will serve their common interests and aspirations for development, progress, and prosperity and also for achieving security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

GPC Congress To Convene 25 Jun

JN2006083795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid an atmosphere of hope and confidence and following democratic and responsible discussion of all national and organizational issues, the Standing Committee concluded its 18th ordinary session in Sanaa under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC]. It approved the documents presented to it by the preparatory committee assigned with preparing for the fifth general congress. These include a draft law amending the National Charter, a draft law on the political action program, the bylaws of the GPC, and a draft law on the procedural statutes of the fifth general congress.

It was decided to hold the fifth general congress in Sanaa on 25 June.

Speaker on Improving Relations With Neighbors

MM2006102995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Lutfi Shatarah in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shatarah] President 'Ali Salih's recent visit to Saudi Arabia led to great interest in the Yemeni scene. How would you assess the results of the visit?

[Al-Ahmar] That is the interesting issue today. The visit is historic and took place after a period of estrangement. It has had an impact on the internal and external levels in the two fraternal countries. It is in itself a historic event, it will bear fruit, and it is in the interests of both countries.

[Shatarah] What steps will follow these meetings between officials in the two countries?

[Al-Ahmar] The first step was the visit and the meeting between King Fahd and President Salih to end the state of estrangement and the atmosphere of boycott that had prevailed over past years. It is a very big step. It will open broader prospects for cooperation between the two countries. The most important of its results is that it has opened a new page for Yemeni citizens who have interests in Saudi Arabia. Yemenis will obtain numerous important facilities, including the opening of outlets between the two countries for trade operations, exports of the two countries' products to one another, and easier travel for Yemenis. This is in addition to numerous facilities and benefits which Yemenis will reap in terms of both employment and trade. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] It was reported following President 'Ali Salih's visit to Saudi Arabia that diplomatic and nondiplomatic channels had been opened to restore relations between Yemen and Kuwait.

[Al-Ahmar] Saudi Arabia is the basis. Yemen is interested in restoring relations with Kuwait and the Gulf states to their previous level. For our part, we have no objection. We have not broken off relations with Kuwait. On the contrary, Kuwait's embassy in Sanaa is open and has been run by the charge d'affaires since the Gulf war. As for the other Gulf states, our relations with them are normal and continuing, with the exception of Kuwait.

[Shatarah] Has Yemen made contacts with Kuwait?

[Al-Ahmar] There have to be contacts, and we would welcome any Kuwaiti initiative. We have no reservations. On the contrary, we have every wish to restore relations with Kuwait to normal. [passage omitted]

Reserve Officers Called Up for '30-Day Training'

JN2006123195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mobilization and Statistics Directorate in the Defense Ministry has called up reserve officers from Classes 26, 27, 30, and 34 for a 30-day training period.

The following is the text of the communique issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate regarding the call-up of the reserve officers.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;

Communique No. 2 of 1995 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate in the Defense Ministry:

1. In accordance with Paragraphs 1-A and 3 of Article 15 of the Amended Military Service Law No. 95 of 1969, it has been decided to call up the reserve graduate officers of Classes 26, 27, 30, and 34 for a 30-day training period.

The officers will be discharged after this period according to the following schedule:

A. Class 26 from 23 August-22 September 1995.
B. Class 27 from 1 October-30 October 1995.
C. Class 30 from [date indistinct]-3 December 1995.
D. Class 34 from 11 December 1995-10 January 1996.

2. All reserve officers inside and outside the country should report to the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate within five days of the date of this communique and according to the classes.

3. This communique is considered an official notification to all ministries and departments that are not affiliated with ministries and the private, social, and mixed sectors to inform their staff of those covered by the above classes.

[Signed] The staff major general director of mobilization and statistics

[Dated] 20 June

In addition, the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate has called up reserve armed men [al-musallahin al-ihtiyat] born in 1952, 1961, 1962, and 1963 for the reserve service for a 30-day training period.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate on the call-up of the armed men.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;

Communique No. 1 of 1995 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate in the Defense Ministry:

1. In accordance with Paragraphs 1/A and 3 of Article 15 of the Amended Military Service Law No. 65 of 1969, it has been decided to call up those born in 1952, 1961, 1962, and 1963 of the armed staff only for the reserve service for a 30-day training period. They will be discharged after this period, in line with the following schedule:

A. Those born in 1952, from 23 August-22 September 1995.
B. Those born in 1961, from 1 October-30 October 1995.
C. Those born in 1962, from 4 November-3 December 1995.
D. Those born in 1963, from 11 December 1995-10 January 1996.

2. Those who are inside and outside the country should report to the mobilization offices within five days of the date of this communique and according to their year of birth.

3. This communique will be considered an official notification for all ministries and departments that are not affiliated with a ministry, and the private, social, and mixed sectors to notify their staff of the above years of birth.

[Signed] The staff major general director of mobilization and statistics

[Dated] 20 June

TV 'Exposes' Western 'Fabrications' About Abu Gharib

JN1906204495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 19 June carries a 25-minute recorded "special interview which exposes the trap into which the U.S.-Zionist media fell over the past five days in their desperate attempt to harm great Iraq."

The program begins with an unidentified announcer reviewing in detail how the story of the attack against the Abu Gharib transmitters began by saying that on Wednesday "the AFP correspondent in Amman, Jordan reported that an Iraqi armored battalion, the 14 July Battalion, led by Brigadier General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi is waging a battle in the Abu Gharib area and is trying to control the Abu Gharib transmitters," adding that "it was assisted in this by Radio Monte Carlo in a hysterical and exaggerated manner." The announcer then says that "the Zionist enemy radio immediately joined in by fabricating new chapters of this story and claiming that this was a coup."

The announcer then notes how the Iraqi Information Ministry denied these baseless reports and how "it invited the REUTERS correspondent to visit the area and see for himself whether it has been the scene of military operations."

The announcer then explains how Western media such as the BBC, the Voice of America, AP, THE TIMES, THE INDEPENDENT, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, THE WASHINGTON POST, LE MONDE, LIBERATION, THE FINANCIAL TIMES, THE SUNDAY TIMES, and THE OBSERVER later on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday joined AFP and Radio Monte Carlo, "confirming that the commander of this Battalion committed suicide" and "blew the story out of proportion" by claiming that "150 soldiers from the 14 July Armored Battalion were executed." Explaining the hostile media campaign, the announcer says "It goes without saying that the Western media establishments, particularly those which are hostile to Iraq, are companies which need funding, and this funding, most of the time, is supplied by the zionist entity, by the world zionist movement. If not so, they are linked to the West's interests and the interests of the major companies. Therefore, these radio stations and news agencies will certainly express the interests of these quarters."

After reviewing reports that Western media have published on the Abu Gharib incident, the announcer says "we at the television station decided to interview the commander who committed suicide, or who was reported to have committed suicide, retired Brigadier General Isma'il Turki al-Dulaymi."

In the six-minute interview, Brig. Gen. al-Dulaymi introduces himself by saying he is "retired infantry Brig. Gen. Isma'il Turki al-Dulaymi" and not a member of the armored corps as reported. He says he retired two years ago and now works in the private sector in al-Anbar Governorate. At the announcer's request, al-Dulaymi shows his identity card issued by the Al-Anbar Chamber of Commerce which shows his name as "Isma'il Turki" and that he is registered as a businessman.

The announcer then points out how news agencies sometimes reported his name as Turki Isma'il and at other times as Isma'il Turki. The announcer adds, "The Iraqi authorities confirmed that there is no officer in the Iraqi armored corps named Turki Isma'il."

The announcer then says that this incident "is part of the attempt to harm Iraq, the city to which you belong, to your family, and to yourself. As I know, you had well-known stands in the al-Qadisiyah battle and you were decorated many times."

The program then shows pictures of al-Dulaymi's house in al-Anbar Governorate with his family and children. The announcer then wishes al-Dulaymi "long life and safety."

In conclusion, the announcer says: "This is the trap into which the Western media which are hostile to Iraq fell. Let us greet all those names which participated in reporting this fabricated story." He then names all the above-listed papers and news agencies.

Opposition Cited on Dismissal of Intelligence Chief

LD1906135795 Tehran IRNA in English
1201 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ilam, June 19, IRNA — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has recently dismissed head of the intelligence agency Saba'wi Ibrahim al-Hasan, Voice of Iraq radio reported Sunday night [18 June].

The radio, monitored in this western city, said that the faliure of al-Hasan to maintain domestic security of Iraq was the main reason for his dismissal.

The sacked chief of the Iraqi intelligence agency is the stepbrother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The radio, which is run by Iraqi opposition forces, added that Saddam two weeks ago sacked Interior Minister of Iraq, Taleban Ibrahim al-Hasan, another stepbrother of his, as well as Air Force Commander General Mozahim Hasan.

Brigadier Majid Hasan al-Majid, a previous Iraqi intelligence official, will replace Ibrahim al-Hasan, the radio said.

Saddam's Forces Siege al-Ramadi; Supplies Cut

NC1906133595 Paris AFP in English
1319 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, June 19 (AFP) — The army has besieged the unrest-hit town of al-Ramadi in western Iraq and cut off all supplies, a senior member of the rebel al-Dulaymi tribe told AFP on Monday [19 June].

"The clashes which began a month ago have already left 200 dead in the al-Dulaymi family and the government is preventing relatives from burying the victims," said Najib al-Dulaymi, who fled Iraq for neighbouring Jordan.

Riots broke out in al-Ramadi, the capital of al-Anbar province in western Iraq, on May 18 following the return to his family of the mutilated body of an executed al-Dulaymi air force general.

General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi had been arrested in November for his alleged role in an attempted coup against Saddam, and executed in mid-May.

Inhabitants of al-Ramadi who fled to Amman have put the death toll from clashes with security forces at 178 people, including more than 100 civilians from the powerful al-Dulaymi clan.

A curfew has now been clamped on the town and water and electricity supplies cut off, Najib al-Dulayami said.

Soldiers and tanks patrol the streets and residents hear gunshots every night. "But resistance is weakening through lack of supplies," he said.

Several homes of tribe members have been "completely destroyed" during searches by hooded members of an elite volunteer corps called the Fedayeen of Saddam, or those who sacrifice themselves for Saddam.

"Security forces take women hostage to force their husband or son to surrender," al-Dulaymi said.

"The army has sprayed chemicals onto fields around al-Ramadi where al-Dulaymi resistance fighters were hiding." Some had managed to escape like himself across the desert to Jordan or Syria, he said.

Iraqi intelligence agents are also combing al-Anbar province, which stretches to the borders with Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, for rebel soldiers who escaped after an abortive mutiny on the outskirts of Baghdad last Wednesday, al-Dulaymi added.

The authorities executed 150 rebel soldiers who took part in the mutiny led by General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi after it was crushed Thursday, reliable Iraqi sources said. Hundreds of relatives of the soldiers were rounded up.

The rebels were trying to seize Abu Gharib jail to release around 850 people arrested during the al-Ramadi clashes.

"Close to 4,000 members of the million-strong al-Dulaymi family have been arrested," Najib al-Dulaymi told AFP. "Some prisoners held in Abu Gharib managed to escape during the insurrection."

He called on the international community and the United Nations to help to "save al-Ramadi whose population is at risk of being decimated and starved."

Al-Anbar province, the Republican Guard 14 July battalion which rebelled and the Sunni Moslem al-Dulaymi clan are all traditionally loyal to Saddam Husayn and once formed the backbone of his support. But the powerful al-Dulaymi clan has now declared war on the Iraqi president and said the mutiny in Abu Gharib "was just a first warning."

Opposition: Media Ordered Not To Report Revolt

NC1906142195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's Culture and Information Ministry has issued secret instructions to all the newspapers banning them from reporting the incidents in al-Anbar Governorate and the ensuing attempt by a military unit to seize control of the radio station in the Abu Gharib area.

It has been learned from Iraqi sources that have close ties to the ministry that the instructions stressed that these details should not be reported, not even in private, as this could undermine internal stability and security.

Opposition Calls for Meeting To Topple Saddam

LD1906223895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1706 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 19 Jun — The supreme leadership council of the union of Iraqi tribes [al-majlis al-ri'asi al-'a'la li ittihad al-'asha'ir al-'iraqiyyah] has called for a meeting to be convened as soon as possible to lay down a united military action plan to support the revolutionary movement inside Iraq.

In a statement released here today, the council urged the sons of Iraq to take part in spreading the revolution of the masses, and to stick together, unite, and rally around the common objective of toppling the tyrant of Baghdad.

The statement said that the union of Iraqi tribes has called on all the brotherly and friendly states to back the revolution and support the Iraqi people in their ordeal. It pointed out that the regime is going through its weakest phase, and that the time has come for the ranks of the Iraqi opposition to unite.

The statement called on the chiefs of Iraqi tribes in exile to form a delegation to contact all the opposition forces in Syria and northern Iraq to move together against the Iraqi regime.

In another development, Iraqi opposition sources said that groups from Albu Namr tribes have fled towards the Jordanian border out of fear of the Iraqi regime's action against al-Dulaym tribes, following the mutiny led by Brigadier General Turki al-Dulaymi recently.

The sources said that the Albu Namr tribes are a branch of the al-Dulaym tribes which dwell in the suburbs of al-Ramadi, and that after the mutiny, the

Iraqi regime blocked the roads leading from al-Ramadi to the Jordanian border to prevent further attempts to flee.

News reports yesterday said that the Iraqi regime had executed 150 soldiers of the 14 July Armored Battalion, which staged the mutiny which was led by Brigadier General Turki al-Dulaymi against the Iraqi regime last Wednesday.

SAIRI Spokesman on 'Resentment' Against Saddam

LD1906210695 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jun 95

[Interview with Dr. Hamid al-Bayati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by Amal Sulayman in London; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sulayman] Many reports last week indicated abnormal movements inside Iraq. Therefore, Kuwaiti television interviewed Dr. Hamid al-Bayati, the representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] here in London. Dr. Hamid al-Bayati, what is happening now in Iraq?

[Al-Bayati] Last week Brigadier Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi, who is the commander of the 14 July battalion at Abu Gharib camp, attacked the radio transmitters in Abu Gharib. Large battles raged between the forces of the Republican Guard and the special security forces on the one hand, and the forces of this battalion on the other. We believe that Brigadier Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi was planning a coup against the regime in Baghdad.

[Sulayman] What are the details of those events?

[Al-Bayati] The details are: The regime executed Flight Major General Muhammad Madhlum al-Dulaymi along with 60 other officers from the al-Dulaym tribe, one of the large known tribes in Ramadi Province [as heard] in western Iraq. When the regime handed the bodies of those officers over to their families, the tribe realized that the regime had used atrocious methods of torture on them. The tribe then rose against the regime and attacked government buildings. The regime enacted revenge against the population of that city by closing it off and letting its forces loose in it. Reports have indicated that they raped women, which stirred up and infuriated the sons of the tribe. As a consequence, Brigadier Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi made his move last Wednesday [7 June] and attempted a military coup d'etat against the regime in Baghdad.

[Sulayman] What is your interpretation of the recent events in Iraq?

[Al-Bayati] These events have deep roots. The Iraqi people now resent Saddam Husayn and the gang ruling Baghdad because they are the reason behind all the catastrophes Iraq has been experiencing since the Iraq-Iran war, and later the occupation of Kuwait, the shelling of the international forces to expel Saddam from Kuwait, and then the UN economic sanctions. All of this has caused the resentment the Iraqi people harbor against this regime.

[Sulayman] Do you have new details regarding movements today?

[Al-Bayati] We have received reports indicating that new confrontations have taken place in Ramadi today between the people, the tribes of Ramadi, and the government troops; we are still trying to obtain information regarding these details.

Industry Minister Meets Russia's Posuvalyuk

JN1906183895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, met today with Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian deputy foreign minister. The minister briefed Posuvalyuk on the great industrial achievements scored by the mujahidin of the industrial sector, as well as the creativity of Iraq despite the unjust blockade imposed on our country. He pointed out that the blockade has given the Iraqis more ability to increase their sacrifices and their creativity. This, he said, was epitomized by many achievements, as well as the projects implemented by the Iraqi people despite the blockade.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote trade and industrial relations between the two countries in order to ensure the joint interests of the two peoples. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid, adviser at the Presidential Office; Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, Industry and Minerals Ministry under secretary; and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to the country that will last several days. Upon arrival, he told the Iraqi News Agency that his visit to Iraq was part of the efforts to coordinate Iraqi-Russian stands in order to lift the comprehensive blockade on Iraq.

Paris Paper: Initial Agreement Signed With Syria

TA1906182695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The next edition of a Paris Jewish community weekly, which will be published in two days, carries a report saying that Israel and Syria signed a preliminary peace agreement on 5 June this year. According to the weekly, TRIBUNE JUIF, the agreement was signed in Paris by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Health Minister Efrayim Sne on the Israeli side.

Our Paris correspondent Yo'av Tocker says that the weekly is considered a reliable periodical with good connections to elements in the government in Jerusalem. In the past, it carried reliable reports before the Oslo agreement was signed.

The current report says that, according to the agreement, Israel will withdraw from the Golan Heights in stages and in 10 years. During this time, Israel will have control over the water resources, and then one-third of them will be handed over to Syria. The report adds that Israel will first pull out from the area of the Druze villages on the Golan, and only three years later will it evacuate three Jewish settlements.

The agreement has an addendum according to which the Israel-Syria agreement depends on its approval by referenda in both countries. Failure to attain this approval in one of the two referenda will invalidate it. This report will be published in the TRIBUNE JUIF in two days in Paris, and our correspondent Yo'av Tocker says that it is usually reliable.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 June carries a similar report, adding that the peace agreement with Syria was signed by "Foreign Minister Peres and four other Israeli ministers." The report says that the Paris weekly cites "a source in the Israeli security services," adding that 30 percent of the Golan water resources will be handed over to Syria "after the withdrawal is completed and the region is demilitarized." The French weekly says that "the final agreement will be brought for referendum in Israel and in Syria, and will become null and void if it fails to win the support of one of the two countries, or if they are not held by 15 December this year. The weekly says that by that date, the Israeli Government is supposed to declare that it owns a unique military means of deterrence. The source did not specify."]

Rabin, Peres, Sne Deny French Report

TA1906190695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The bureaus of the prime minister and the foreign minister and Minister Efrayim Sne this evening denied the report by a French Jewish weekly that Minister Peres and four other Israeli ministers signed a preliminary peace agreement with Syria two weeks ago in Paris according to which Israel will withdraw from the Golan in 10 years. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Peres, Chief of Staff on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

TA2006110995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq says negotiations beginning next week with Syria will include the latest violence in Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Palestinians must cut the agenda in the current negotiations if an agreement is to be reached by 1 July. The foreign minister said whether to release Palestinian prisoners who have committed murder is a difficult problem facing Israel today. David Ze'ev reports:

[Ze'ev] One week from today, Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq is to sit down with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat Shihabi to negotiate security arrangements. This morning he told reporters there is no doubt the violence aimed at Israel from Lebanon is an issue to be discussed with the Syrians since, Gen. Shahaq said, the Syrians are in Lebanon and because they also have influence over Hizballah.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has denied the French media report of a secret agreement with Syria. He said he does not concern himself with why there have been a number of reports of secret contacts, or who the sources are relaying this information.

On the Palestinians, the foreign minister says negotiations can be concluded by 1 July if the Palestinians lower their expectations over what has to be agreed upon now.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The negotiations are going on, and 11 days is not very much from the point of view of time, but it's not little either.

[Ze'ev] Would I be correct to say that Israel wants to negotiate right now only on the first phase of the redeployment, whereas the Palestinians want everything agreed to before the elections take place?

[Peres] Well, about Israel, you are right. About the Palestinians, I don't think they want everything, but they want quite a great deal, and the time does not permit to do it. I mean, the framework of time was done in order really to achieve the first part of it, which is necessary for elections. Because at the beginning the Palestinians said that what they want to achieve really as first priority is elections. Now, the redeployment for elections can be done or can be agreed upon on the target date.

[Ze'ev] The Palestinian Authority, Yasir 'Arafat himself, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh have come out very strongly about the issue of security prisoners and say that the next phase is linked to the release of those prisoners. What is your reaction?

[Peres] There is nothing of a linkage in the DOP [Declaration of Principles]; we checked time and again. It's a very complicated issue, because the problem is what to do about people who killed in cold blood innocent citizens, and they are not even necessarily members of the PLO; they belong to other organizations. So just to release them is very problematic, particularly when some of them tend to return to the old business of killing. [end recording]

[Ze'ev] But the foreign minister did not totally rule out the release of prisoners held for murder. In the past Israel did reject such releases. [end Ze'ev report]

The chief of staff also told the committee that reserve duty would be cut by an average of nine days in the coming year. Reserve soldiers in fighting units would do a maximum of 29 days.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 20 June says the chief of staff and the foreign minister made their remarks at today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The report cites Shahaq as saying that "Hizballah men have recently begun shelling Lebanese villages in south Lebanon too, and we will not tolerate this or the launching of katyushas at northern Israel. Shahaq added that Hizballah understands our stand and is deliberately pursuing its line. The chief of staff stressed that Hizballah has the backing of other organizations, and there is a connection between the events in Lebanon and the developments between us and the Syrians."]

Neriya 'Surprised' at Report on Jordan Disappointment

TA2006135795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jacques Neriya, head of the Histadrut trade federation's international division, says he was surprised by a report in HA'ARETZ today saying disappointment with the Israel-Jordan peace treaty is growing. Neriya just returned from Amman, where he accompanied Histadrut Secretary General Hayim Ramon in meetings with King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan.

Neriya told No'omi Segal that displeasure voiced by Jordanians over the recent land expropriations issue seems to have dissipated.

[Begin recording] [Neriya] To tell you frankly, I was surprised to read the report this morning in the papers concerning this growing concern in Jordan. We've heard both from the foreign minister and from His Majesty, King of Jordan, their commitment to very warm peace with Israel and their personal involvement in order to make it possible for further tracks to advance and to reach (?settlement) — be it on the Palestinian issue or the Syrian track.

[Segal] But the report did not raise any doubts about the commitment of Jordanian leaders to the peace treaty. It spoke more of voices of dissent within the parliament and among the people.

[Neriya] Well, as far as we understood, this mood was existent in Jordan in the days of the problems concerning the expropriation in Jerusalem. At that time, indeed, there was a lot of hard feelings concerning Israel. After the government decided not to go on with the expropriation issue, the atmosphere was completely different, and as far as we understood from the king and his principal aides, the law concerning the boycott against Israel will pass this week in the Jordanian Parliament, so that it will enable the beginning of full normalization in the relations between Jordan and Israel. So, there was a lot of criticism concerning the policy of the government in the case of Jerusalem, but now that things are settled, I believe the mood is going to change. In fact, the atmosphere in the street and among the people we met there was very, very friendly. [end recording]

Follow-Up Committee With Jordan Meets in Elat

JN1906200895 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Jordanian-Israeli committee following up implementation of the peace treaty between the two countries met in Elat today. Delegates assessed progress achieved so far by subcommittees implementing the terms of the treaty, particularly in the transport area.

The al-'Aqabah-Elat committee also reviewed its work and discussed recommendations of the trilateral meeting in Amman last Thursday on the development of the al-'Aqabah Region.

Peres Briefs Irish Foreign Minister on Peace Talks

TA1906161295 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1100 GMT 19 Jun 95

[Communicated by Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met for lunch yesterday (Sunday), 18.06.95, with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring. This was the first visit by an Irish Foreign Minister to Israel. The issue of Orient House was raised by journalists before the meeting. Mr. Peres said that a distinction must be made between the Irish Foreign Minister's formal visit to Israel and his informal visit to Orient House, which is defined as a courtesy call only. Peres said that Israel indicated to the Irish Government that Jerusalem is outside the agreements with the Palestinians, and that any discussion of the issues of the Palestinian Authority at Orient House borders on a violation of the agreement with us. "There is no legal way to prevent visits at Orient House, as long as it is a courtesy call only. Jerusalem is a sensitive issue that needs to be dealt with carefully," Peres said. The Irish Foreign Minister told reporters that his visit to Orient House was in response to an invitation by the Palestinians. According to him, this was a courtesy call that was also coordinated with the countries of the European Union.

During their meeting, Mr. Peres welcomed Mr. Spring to Israel, and expressed the hope for enhanced cooperation in many areas between Ireland and Israel. Mr. Peres said that he hoped that Ireland would play an active and constructive role in the peace process, especially when it assumes the EU presidency in July 1996. Foreign Minister Spring responded that he was glad to be in Israel and to discuss the improvement of bilateral relations between the two countries. He pointed out that his government supports the peace process, and said that, "Ireland certainly wants to play an active role in establishing peace in the region, and to render assistance both within the European Union and at the Barcelona Conference." He mentioned that he had arrived in Israel from Damascus and was especially impressed by the optimism that prevails there in the run-up to the chiefs-of-staff talks in Washington.

The two foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction over the improvement in bilateral relations and over their extension to the agriculture and technology fields. Mr. Peres briefed Mr. Spring on the peace process with the Palestinians and with Syria. He pointed out that Israel is making every effort to reach agreement by July 1, but noted that the redeployment of the IDF in the territories will be in two stages: the first — before the elections, and the second — afterwards. On the issue of Jerusalem, Mr. Peres said that there were differences of opinion with the Palestinians, and that Israel will not agree to a Berlin-style partition, but would agree to open it to believers from every faith and religion. Mr. Peres also brought up the issue of the agreement with the European Union; Mr. Spring replied that Ireland was interested that the agreement be signed quickly, and would act accordingly. Mr. Peres also raised the issue of a regional bank, and pointed out that the bank would be the first financial institution in the area with a unified and positive character. He said that the Middle East bank would not repeat the mistakes of other regional banks. Mr. Spring replied that it would be desirable to raise the issue at the upcoming Barcelona Conference.

Rabin: Economic Development To Cement Peace Process

TA2006064195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says economic integration between Israel and the Arab countries will help cement the peace process. He was addressing an international business conference in Haifa. Rabin also called on European nations for continued investment in Israel.

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that the economic development of Israel should serve as an example, and no doubt, the continuation of the peace process will bring about many more investments to Israel. I was very satisfied that two weeks ago the first major European — in this case a German — company decided to invest in Israel. I refer to the agreement that was made between Volkswagen and the Dead Sea Plant. I believe it's a good beginning, and shows that the Europeans are less afraid from the Arab boycott than in the past. Israel has got many opportunities in increasing its economic activities with many parts of the world. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Sees 1st PA Year Quite 'Successful'

TA2006110495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jun 95 p 9

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority's [PA] first active year was "reasonably successful," and Yasir 'Arafat proved to be "a dominant and indispensable figure," states an analysis paper drafted by the Foreign Ministry's Political Research Center upon the conclusion of the first year of the Gaza and Jericho autonomy.

The paper states that 'Arafat successfully handled his domestic opposition, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Having identified Hamas from the outset as the greatest threat to his rule, 'Arafat sought to isolate it from the other opposition organizations.

The paper contends that because of his growing inclination to rely on PA institutions, what 'Arafat really fears is a rise in the power of the Fatah movement.

'Arafat's foremost problem is the economy. The Palestinians nurtured "exaggerated and irrational" expectations, and were naturally disappointed. 'Arafat's rule is characterized by "bureaucracy and corruption."

The paper concludes that the Palestinian mood has "improved," despite the existence of unresolved vital problems. With the 1 July target date drawing near, 'Arafat needs to present his people with achievements and to bring about the start of "the much coveted Palestinian foothold" in the West Bank.

Military Intelligence Chief Quits Ahead of Schedule

TA2006105295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OC [officer commanding] Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Sagi will be replaced on Friday by Brig.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, two months before he was scheduled to step down.

Sagi has asked Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to relieve him of his duties at the earliest possible date, and Rabin approved the request after consulting with Chief of General Staff [CGS] Lt.- Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq.

The background behind Sagi's decision is his strained relationship with Shahaq, which began even before Shahaq was chosen over Sagi as CGS last November.

A feud then developed over Sagi's retirement date, with Sagi claiming that Shahaq never discussed retirement details with him. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman publicly set July 13 as the date, which was then changed to August 13 after Sagi questioned the spokesman's credibility, and in private, that of Shahaq.

But what triggered the decision was apparently Shahaq's not including Sagi in the preparatory talks held before the Israeli- Syrian military meeting in Washington, and his reluctance to even include Sagi in the delegation.

Shahaq has already notified Rabin that the two major-generals who will accompany him and later conduct the talks with the Syrians will be Rabin's military aide Dani Yatom and OC Planning Branch 'Uzi Dayan. A brigadier-general from Intelligence will also accompany Shahaq.

Yatom and Dayan have been reported as Shahaq's choices by the media for the last several weeks, evidently adding to Sagi's frustration.

A senior army source said yesterday that Rabin probably would have ordered Shahaq to include Sagi in the talks, by virtue of his role as head of Intelligence and his extensive experience in Syrian affairs over the last several years. But Sagi refused to cooperate with Shahaq under the circumstances.

"This is really not about the talks, but about IDF retirement politics, which are, to put it mildly, uncivilized," the source said.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that Sagi had met with Rabin and requested to move up his retirement, and that Rabin expressed regret, but accepted the request.

However, sources in the Prime Minister's Office describe a somewhat less tranquil version.

"Sagi was furious, claiming that he only learned from the press that Shahaq doesn't want him in the Washington talks. Rabin confirmed that information, and Sagi then asked to be relieved immediately," a Rabin aide said.

Security Stops Settlement Work Near Hashmona'im

TA1806171495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Hashmona'im inhabitants today made an attempt to build a new security road in the vicinity of their settlement, within the framework of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza campaign designed to claim title to lands in the territories. The inhabitants of the nearby village of al-Midya claim that the lands on which the settlers were building belongs to them. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Yokhpaz] The Palestinian residents of the village of al-Midya were furious. This is a provocation we cannot tolerate, they said angrily. The land dispute in the Hashmona'im area began when the settlers brought in a large tractor to break the ground for a road near their settlement this morning, within the framework of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza campaign designed to seize land plots in Judaea and Samaria. Palestinian residents arrived at the disputed plot and blocked the tractor's path with their bodies. [passage omitted]

The security forces also came to the site and ordered the work to be stopped at once, pending an examination of the legal aspects. [passage omitted]

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza announced that the construction of roads and land seizures will continue not only in Hashmona'im and Talmon A and B, where work has already been done, but also in other parts of Judaea and Samaria.

Settlers Build Road From 'Ananot to Mizpe Yeriho

TA1906074195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mate Binyamin Regional Council has cut a seven kilometer-long dirt road running east from the settlement of 'Anatot toward Kfar Adumim and Mitzpe Yeriho.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is financing the new road. According to the settlers the cost amounts to approximately 250,000 shekels, most of which was raised through contributions. The settlers claim the new road is a way of seizing state land and constitutes an alternative to the safe-passage route to be used by Palestinian-owned vehicles from Gaza to Jericho.

Pinhas Walerstein, head of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, says the new road was secretly built over the last four months, without any coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the authorities. He claims that the road passes only through state land.

Commentary Says Settlers 'Weaker Than Ever'

TA1806113695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 95 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Levi: "The Moment of Truth, Brothers and Sisters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again the old familiar pictures returned last week: Early in the morning, the settlers came. Several hours later they posed for the cameras with their prayer shawls and tefilin on the top of the bold mountain just like in the good old days. Naturally, they dubbed the operation "Eretz Yisra'el First" and, as usual, they sang songs of redemption. Nisan Slomyansky issued instructions on a walkie-talkie, and the entire operation had a military appearance. Beni Katzover and Aharon Domb were also around. Three families and 13 singles from Judaea and Samaria seized 13 empty, run-down apartments near the Barqan industrial zone.

The day before, their activists leaked the story to HA'ARETZ's Nadav Shragay to draw some more attention. The press headlines the next day yelled: "The Settlers Raided at Dawn," and "The Army Is Moving Out, and We Are Moving In." As usual, Mordekhay Gur came to pat them on the shoulder, affectionately calling them "the guys," and promise aid that would equate them with the 13 kibbutzim members who settled on the ground in 1946. The veteran settlers chose to compare the operation with Sebastia, and on the left some also remembered that campaign with horror: The settlers struck again, and the government stood idly by. But, it was all forgotten two days later, and the attention was focused on a criminal who blew up a gas canister in another settlement. Incidentally, one settler organization has already threatened to adopt the method of resisting an evacuation performed by this nine-time convict.

On the face of it, it seemed that there was reason to be alarmed by the settler operation in Barqan and the government's incompetence. Whatever the legal status of the apartments may be, this is clearly an illegal invasion that was not approved by the authorities. Undoubtedly, through this provocation, the settlers were trying to do their best to harm the interim agreement with the Palestinians which is gradually being established in the field. There seemed to be a fear that the original sin of the first Rabin government, turning a blind eye to the Sebastia settling operation in 1975, is returning with a lack of response by the second Rabin government to the establishment of more and more settlements.

Nevertheless, in the 1995 reality such fears are largely baseless. Twenty years after the Sebastia operation, the settlement endeavor is weaker than ever. The quantitative success it has registered cannot blur the fact that, historically, that endeavor is slowly dying. After establishing facts that many believed were irreversible — 130,000 settlers in 140 settlements — and after the settlements have managed to delay the political process, currently, there is a growing impression that these short-lived successes will not guarantee long-term achievements. The settlements, it seems, do delay the processes, but they cannot and apparently will not be able to prevent it from materializing.

Some settler leaders were among the first to feel this. They understood, better than others, that a new political reality has been created in the territories over the past two years from which — and not from the settlements — there is no turning back. Support for this concept can be found in the book "The Settlers" by veteran settler Me'ir Harnoy: "Even those who expected hard times following the rise to power of the Labor-Meretz government, did not believe that, in a very short time, they would see Yitzhaq Rabin shaking the hand of Yasir 'Arafat.... Whether he (Rabin) wanted it or not, this is the new and harsh reality."

Rabin met 'Arafat, the Oslo agreements were signed, autonomy has been established in Jericho and Gaza, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is pulling out of the West Bank, Palestinian elections are around the corner, and the Spectrum B plan is waiting for its turn — the settlers failed to prevent any of these. On the other hand, there is a greater indication that Israeli public opinion is indifferent to the eventualities: The Golan Heights are going to be handed over any minute now, and no one is taking to the streets of Tel Aviv. The IDF is evacuating West Bank bases and only a handful of demonstrators stand at the Ra'anana Junction with flashlights in their hands. This is the true failure of the settlers: "YESHA' [Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza] Is Here" is merely a name of a campaign. In 25 years of activity, they failed to attain the support of central Israel's urban consensus. The reservoir of Israelis willing to move across the Green Line seems to have been exhausted. The majority of Israelis have never traveled to even visit settlement-land, and most of them could not care less about the future of Ma'ale 'Amos or Tapuah. The settlers' leaders know that they will find it hard to change political moves without this support.

At present, the future of the political process almost exclusively depends on the determination of those who conduct it. If only they chose to do so, they could move the process much farther than they had so far. In this state of affairs the settlers can occasionally try to attract some attention, seize 13 apartments here, place a dozen mobile homes there, stage mini demonstrations — a poor man's protest. It was no accident that they sounded disappointed by the fact that the government failed to forcefully evacuate them from Ma'ale Yisra'el. Pictures of settlers dragged away could serve them much better than inhabiting 13 deserted apartments.

Even the leaflet the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza published this week — opening with the words "This is the moment of truth, brothers and sisters," and calling on their supporters to take a break from their daily activities for the week, bring food and sleeping bags, and wait by the phone — was nothing more than a pathetic leaflet that cannot recapture the glory days that have passed. The moment of truth? More and more it seems that the moment has passed. The mini-operations they carry out only serve the settler leaders to show their frustrated public that "they are doing something." This is only a way to let out some hot air, but it is a losing battle. Which is why there is no need to get too excited about it.

Daily Examines Iranian 'Interference' in Country

JN1906150895 Amman SAWT AL-'URUBAH in Arabic 18 Jun 95 p 2

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] SAWT AL-'URUBAH has learned that Iranian interference in Jordan has reached the point of raising questions within the official Jordanian institution.

During a recent visit to Amman by the Iranian minister of industries, the Jordanian officials conveyed to him their views in this regard. The Iranian minister of industry was told that Jordan is ready to open a new chapter in its relations with Iran within the framework of conditions, most important of which is that Iran should not establish any relationship with Islamic groups, and that these relations should be based on mutual interests in the first place.

The Iranian minister of industries was also informed about a number of practices and contacts with personalities and groups, and was told that these actions strain relations. The officials told the minister that the peace treaty [with Israel] has become a fact and that Jordan will not accept any tampering in this regard. The minister was also told that Iran should know that Israel has become a fact which cannot be ignored if the Iranians want to establish relations in the region without opposition from regional or international forces, especially since Syria, which is the only ally to Iran in the region, is heading toward peace. So, what will the alternative be in this case?

As for the Iranian activity in the Jordanian arena, an Iranian delegation arrived in Amman following the Gulf war. This delegation presented a confidential report to Tehran saying that Jordan is the appropriate alternative to Lebanon because Jordan has borders with Palestine and also has Islamic groups. The delegation suggested that the Iranian ambassador in Amman should be experienced in regional affairs and should have served as ambassador to Lebanon. Thus, Ahmad Dastmalchian was nominated as Iranian ambassador to Jordan, but Jordan rejected the nomination. Then Iran nominated him again, and Jordan accepted him. He is the current Iranian ambassador to Jordan after Lebanon.

The Iranians opened their embassy in Amman and their activities increased in such a manner that led to a Jordanian decision to reduce the number of Iranian diplomats in Jordan to less than 10. The reduction led to the closure of the Iranian Cultural Center, which was headed by Javad Taskhiri, who is the brother of Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, director of the office of Ali Khamene'i [leader of the Islamic Revolution] in Tehran. The Iranians appointed Dastmalchian in his capacity as one of the activists who stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in the early 1980's and was one of the founders of Hizabllah in Lebanon.

In spite of the honeymoon between Iran and Jordan, the latter is carefully monitoring Iranian activities in Amman. These activities included attempts to establish relations with the Jordanian press, invite journalists to visit, exhibit books opposed to Mojahedin-e Khalq, in addition to attempts to extend bridges between Iran and the Islamic groups.

G-7 Support for Peace 'Should Go Beyond Rhetoric'

JN2006110095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Club With Hazy Mandate"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] From a purely economic perspective, the Group of Seven (G-7) seems to be making much less sense than it did when it was established to try and coordinate economic policy through international organisations created half a century ago. Because economic liberalisation is gaining more ground in many parts of the world, market forces are becoming more resistant to any centralised effort to organise them.

And that is only one part of the problem. The second is that the G-7 remains a rich man's club whose membership has failed to include new economic and political powers, like China and India, which have enormous influence on the world economic scene and markets.

But the stands expressed last week by the G-7 on global economic and political concerns are still important, at least by virtue of the weight of the group's members. The G-7, as a set up, may not be able to implement many of the recommendations and decisions it reaches in its annual summits. But the G-7 members are essential players in other world bodies whose mandate and structure allow them to tackle the subjects of the group's decisions.

These include the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which are playing a major role in solving political disputes and setting economic restructuring programmes in most of the developing world.

So it might not be obligatory for the G-7 to include other economic and political powers if its members do not see a need for that and if they are content with their role as a private club concerned with issues under its purview. As a private club, the G-7 can afford to be selective in its admission policies. But it cannot afford to do that if it wants its decisions to acquire international legitimacy.

What is required of this club's members is to utilise their weight in international organisations, in cooperation with other major countries, to realise some of the positive recommendations they have made.

These include the decision to extend support to the Middle East peace process, among others. The G-7 considered the Jordan-Israel peace treaty "an important building bloc for peace" in the region. and with their expressed will to support he peace process, the G-7 members should go beyond rhetoric in helping the countries which took risks for peace to reap its dividends.

The peace-building process requires the support of all. This support should come in terms tangible to the people. Investment in peace takes more than words. The G-7 members can deliver more than words. That they have to do if they want to see stability prevail in the area to the benefit of not only the global economy but also international peace and security.

Figures Urge Discharging Bin-Shakir Government

JN1906095295 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
19 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A number of Jordanian popular, political, and party personalities have called for discharging the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir against the background of the death of the late Mahmud Khalifah and the wounding of his brother Bashshar. In a statement issued the day before yesterday, these personalities called for referring the case to the public prosecutor to investigate the criminal responsibility for this act. [passage omitted]

Party Leader Disciplined for Visiting Israel

JN1906094295 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
19 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Bar Association Council has decided to refer lawyer Ahmad al-Zu'bi, leader of the al-Ahrar [Liberals] Party, to the Bar Disciplinary Board because he led a party delegation on a visit to Israel last week.

In a statement to AL-MAJD, lawyers 'Ali al-Dumur and Ziyad al-Khasawinah, members of the Bar Association Council, said that the Bar Disciplinary Board, which will interrogate al-Zu'bi, will ask the council to impose the necessary penalty on him. The two lawyers added that the Bar Council usually cancels the membership of lawyers who deal with Israel in accordance with the General Assembly's decision banning any dealing with the Israeli enemy.

Hashd Party Denies Report on Deals With Libya

JN2006093695 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic
20 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the report published by the al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party newspaper, which accused Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party] of forging a deal with the Libyans, a press spokesman for Hashd has denied the report in part and parcel.

The spokesman said: There has not been a deal between the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, Hashd, and brother 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Ammar, the leading member of the [Libyan] people's liaison committees. The newspaper, which insists on misleading citizens, did not explain the nature of the deal of which it speaks. We reiterate that our party supports the Libyan brothers in their struggle to lift the siege imposed on them. The party works to broaden pan-Arab solidarity with them and to enhance relations between the popular movements.

Recalling AL-'AHD's position toward the parties' visits to Syria and Iraq, the spokesman said: It returns to the same provocative methods against the political parties opposed to the government policy on the political settlement and all issues of the homeland. This places AL-'AHD newspaper among the forces that are hostile to democracy and pluralism and the isolationists who seek to cut the bonds between the Jordanian people and their political, nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces on the one hand, and the Arab peoples on the other.

Through its practices, which aim to provoke the government and its organs, the newspaper is working for the return of the old martial laws.

Israel Sends Reinforcements to al-Biqa', South

NC1906114495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A state of extreme tension continues to prevail in the south for the second day running in the wake of the Israeli attacks and the resistance's counterattacks. Israel has stepped up its threats to bombard houses and defenseless villages.

Meanwhile, reports from the occupied border strip have confirmed that Israel has sent military vehicles, artillery pieces, and ammunition trucks to its advanced positions in the south and western al-Biqa'. The reports added that the Israeli forces have also installed sophisticated observation equipment.

Hizballah Source Rejects U.S. 'Terrorist' Charge

MM1906152295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah: The United States Sees Resistance as Terrorism; We Will Continue Resistance" — all quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — A Hizballah leadership source in Beirut yesterday reacted to the statement attributed by AL-HAYAH to a high-ranking U.S. official in which he described the party as "a terrorist organization" and rejected "any political role for it in Lebanon or in the internal reconciliation process because that terrorist organization does not lend credibility to the Lebanese Government on the question of rejecting terrorism."

The Hizballah leadership source said: "We do not consider the U.S. Administration to be humanly, morally, or legally qualified to offer descriptions or labels for any group, movement, people, or state in this world, especially not the label of terrorism, because the U.S. Administration is the mother, essence, and origin of terrorism and the exporter of terrorism to the world, and it is the main support of Israel, the terrorist racist state in the region.

The source said that the United States accuses Hizballah of terrorism because — as that high-ranking official said — "of its current attitude," in other words its resistance against occupation and its defense of its people. He said that what infuriates the United States most in Lebanon and elsewhere is the presence of resistance fighters, mujahidin, and free men who live up to the level of their homeland, their nation, and their cause. That is why we declare that we are proud that the great Satan is hostile to us, which only strengthens our conviction that we are right." He stressed that all kinds of exaggerations and falsehoods cannot undermine our will and our resolve. That is why we repeat that our Islamic jihadist resistance will continue and will escalate until the liberation of the usurped territory, and that our resistance against the Zionist occupiers and invaders is our religion, our honor, our ethics, and our greatest credibility." The source condemned the "flagrant U.S. interference in Lebanese internal affairs, as evident in more than one part of that official's statement." He reaffirmed that "we will continue to resist any form of U.S. interference or attempt to impose hegemony on our country and the region. As regards our main role, we do not seek permission for it from the United States. It is the choice and the will of our people.... In this respect, the Lebanese authorities face a new test: Will they stand with their people and with the resistance which they always maintain is a right and a duty, or give in to the enemy of the people and nation?

Parliamentary Bloc Assails U.S. Comments

NC2006065895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Loyalty to the Resistance Parliamentary Bloc held a meeting in Beirut yesterday. It discussed several general issues that concern our kinsfolk and people. The bloc issued a statement saying the Resistance is an impregnable fortress and that accusations by U.S. Administration officials, particularly by the infamous Pelletreau, saying the resistance is a terrorist action, offer the best proof that the United States has always supported the Zionist oppressors.

The statement considered the U.S. statements a blatant intervention in internal Lebanese affairs. It expressed the hope that the government will adopt a clear and frank position at its next meeting.

The statement added that Zionist officials have been uttering threats against our kin in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa'. These threats have been accompanied by attacks on several villages and towns. The statement said the people of the south will stand fast against Zionist treachery and terrorism.

Says End to Resistance 'Wishful Thinking'

NC2006065995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, Hizballah has affirmed that the Islamic Resistance operation near al-Dabshah on 18 June in which 10 Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded was an answer to all the U.S. claims and Zionist attacks; it was an eloquent reply cutting short all discussion. The statement said that talk that Hizballah is preparing to stop the resistance and silence its rifles is mere U.S.-Zionist wishful thinking, because this rifle is the sacred means and the only option for liberation.

Hizballah stated: Zionist threats do not frighten us, but are an attempt by the enemy's leaders to assert that the initiative is still in their hands and that they have not lost control in the ongoing confrontation in the occupied zone.

Accuses U.S., Israel of Coordinating 'Escalation'

NC2006080095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Jun 95

[From the "Spotlight on Events" program: "The Double Escalation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Not surprisingly, the Zionist military escalation has coincided with the visit to Beirut by Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state. The visit is also accompanied by a political escalation. Lebanon knows that whenever a U.S. official visits it or the region it is an important occasion for putting Israeli guns into action. Israeli security messages become important when U.S. officials arrive in the region.

But this time the escalation was coordinated and planned. Pelletreau escalated his campaign in Beirut, asking, rather ordering, Lebanese officials to approve Washington's decisions on terrorism. The Zionists violently and indiscriminately stepped things up in the south in a coordinated message the gist of which was that if Lebanese officials do not accept Pelletreau's offer, they will bear the consequences of what happens in the south. In other words, Lebanon either gives in to Washington's conditions or faces Zionist gunfire. Lebanon, on the official and popular levels, must choose between the two options.

Pelletreau, who arrived in Beirut wanting to triumph over terrorism, did not grasp that the actions of the Zionist artillery and the entire Zionist war machine are terrorism. He found terrorism elsewhere, among those who are defending themselves and resisting pressure so they will not surrender or fall.

No sooner had Pelletreau left Beirut than a high-ranking U.S. official spoke about a U.S. veto on any political role for Hizballah. The same U.S. official pointed out that Hizballah is preparing to abandon its armed resistance against Israel. This statement was a fabricated attempt to give the impression that U.S. pressure to remove the so-called obstacles to a settlement is bearing fruit. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Talks With Greek Counterpart

NC1906203895 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1500 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Greek National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis, who is visiting Damascus, and Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister and deputy prime minister, stressed at their meeting their mutual desire to strengthen Greek-Syrian relations.

The Syrian deputy prime minister stressed Greece's role in the efforts to find a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia and referred to the two countries' desire to expand their relations within the framework of the agreement reached between President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou during the latter's visit to Syria a few months ago.

In a statement to journalists after his meeting with Mr. Arsenis, the Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister stressed that the Greeks also have other strong cards and ways to exert influence as well as a voice that will be heard favorably so that a peaceful agreement can be achieved in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Nobody benefits from the continued conflagration in the Balkans, Mr. Talas said, adding: The Syrian Government's view is identical to the Greek view, in that the appropriate solution is political and not military.

Greek-Syrian cooperation in the defense sector includes a regular exchange of information on developments in the Middle East and the Balkans, programs of joint training and visits by officials to Damascus and Athens. Discussions are also being held on cooperation in the defense industry.

At noon today, Mr. Arsenis had a meeting with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, at which they primarily discussed economic issues. Tomorrow, Mr. Arsenis will meet with President Hafiz al- Asad and this afternoon he will have a meeting with Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East.

Press on Washington Talks: U.S. 'Pressure' Needed

JN1706073495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Israel's Responsibility," TISHRIN comments editorially on the Middle East peace process. It says that the road to regional peace must pass through full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN says it is important for Israel to pave the way for full withdrawal by making it clear to the Israeli public that a stable, durable, and firm peace depends on ending the occupation and that the benefits of peace are much more important than expansion and settlement building, especially since expansion and settlement building are two basic sources of insecurity and tension and two serious obstacles to regional stability and the establishment of peace in it.

TISHRIN says that the Rabin government bears a special responsibility in this regard, for the settlement policy was first launched by the Labor Party. Later, it encouraged the Likud to intensify this policy. However, the October 1973 war reversed all concepts and made the Israelis aware of facts, most important of which is that the Arabs will not give up their territories and rights and that the road to regional peace passes first through full Israeli withdrawal from those territories. Those following up the developments of the peace process know that the settlements constitute a stumbling block and that the road to peace would have been much easier and the chances more plenty had it not been for those settlements.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli Government must adopt a responsible and brave stand on settlements, which are constant hotbeds of tension. A real, just, and durable peace requires the removal of those hotbeds of tension.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Misleading and implicit statements do not give the peace process the desired impetus, which can be attained only by an explicit and decisive Israeli stand on full withdrawal and curbing any aggressive and extremist tendencies in Israeli society in the interest of peace and its requirements.

In an editorial on the Middle East peace process, AL-THAWRAH says that if Israel is truly interested in a breakthrough in the peace process, it should make this clear during the next Washington talks between the chiefs of staff by implementing its specified obligations without conditions, (?durations), complications, and most importantly, without occasional contradictory statements concerning withdrawal, security arrangements, demilitarized zones, or other issues.

AL-THAWRAH says that Syria pays no attention to all those contradictory statements or stands that are dictated by domestic Israeli or other considerations. Syria's sole concern is what may achieve complete, unconditional withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon in a manner that leads to equitability [takafu'] and equality in any arrangements to be approved on the two sides of the 4 June 1967 line. Anything else is rejected and violates and obstructs the principles of peace and international legitimacy. This will be practically proved at the upcoming Washington talks, which will be a true test of Israel's intentions.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is useful here to refer to President Clinton's assertion that President al-Asad is serious about seeking a just, comprehensive peace. This assertion should lead to the logical and objective conclusion that Israel will be responsible for any obstruction of the peace process. Any attempt to disrupt the military talks in Washington or deflect them from their set and specified targets is an exposed attempt to distract attention from the main issue, which is peace and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. The United States should compel Israel to comply with the peace process and its requirements. Naturally, after President Clinton noted his personal interest in the issue, the U.S. credibility and prestige have come under a real test, for Clinton has upgraded the interest from that of an administration to that of a president. This is an extremely important development.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: We hope that the U.S. President will put pressure on Israel so that it may understand the significance of this development and its being a U.S. presidential concern. We believe that this time the United States will not accept that its prestige and dignity be harmed in an issue at this level of supreme national sensitivity.

Paper on Israeli 'Wager' on Territory, Peace

JN2006095595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH comments on the major pillars of a true, just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. A just and comprehensive peace is impossible to achieve without the actual implementation, in letter and spirit, of the resolutions of international legitimacy, based on full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of rights in full.

The paper adds: Israel has finally realized, after its intransigent, arrogant, and evasive stands, that its attempts to sabotage and derail the peace process and turn it into distorted and incomplete solutions will fail and will be rejected by the masses of the Arab nation. Israel has also realized that the other reason for this is the principled and firm Syrian position that adheres to a just and comprehensive peace and that rejects any surrender or relinquishment of Arab rights and interests.

AL-BA'TH says the Israeli wager on making peace and keeping the occupied Arab territory at the same time has failed. Israel should not simply acknowledge that the Golan is Syrian territory and that the south is Lebanese territory. These are established facts that do not require any recognition. Israel should take actions by implementing the international resolutions, complying with the will of the international community, and withdrawing to the 4 June 1967 lines. This will provide the appropriate conditions for establishing true peace for which the peoples of the region aspire.

Paper: Lebanon 'Determined' To Liberate Territory

JN2006064595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN says resistance to Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon will continue until this occupation ends. The paper asserts that Israel seeks to guarantee its security at the expense of Arab security. This is why the outcome of this policy has been disappointing for the Israelis. In fact, the excessive use of military force in southern Lebanon has created countless political and economic problems and huge burdens for Israel. Thus, the policy of aggression against southern Lebanon has become a real dilemma for it.

TISHRIN expresses its absolute conviction that the only way to provide security is to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. This peace must restore rights and stem aggression and expansion. True security must also be parallel [mutawazinan] and equal [mutasawiyan] and not for one party alone.

The paper asserts that Lebanon—government and people—is determined to liberate its occupied territory. It strongly refuses to relinquish its rights. Lebanon, with the help of Syria, managed to defeat the Israeli invasion of 1982. It will succeed now in liberating its territory and ensuring its security and stability.

TISHRIN says occupation is the source of all problems and that military superiority does not provide security for Israel. The paper concludes that full withdrawal from southern Lebanon, stopping interfering in Lebanon's affairs, and respecting its independence and sovereignty constitute the correct prelude to the desired peace in the region.

Afghanistan

Saudi Paper Interviews Ahmad-Shah Mas'ud

95LA0231B Jeddah UKAZ in Arabic 6 May 95 p 11

[Interview with Ahmad-Shah Mas'ud by Khalid Taha in Kabul; date not given: "Mas'ud Aims His Gun and Opens Fire on Afghan Leaders; Hekmatyar Dreams of Becoming Caliph of the World's Muslims" — first paragraph is 'UKAZ introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a three-day wait, an appointment was set for me to meet Ahmad-Shah Mas'ud, the current Afghan Government's strongman, even though he holds no position in this government. I entered the house that was prepared for the interview. The furniture was very elegant and arranged nicely. Yunis Qanouni, the man in charge of the Ministry of Defense affairs, asked me to sit at a table that abounded with three varieties of biscuits. I sat next to him, and a domestic served us cups of tea that we drank quietly. Mas'ud entered suddenly and began to apologize for my having to wait so long to meet him. It seems he arrived hungry because he pulled one of the biscuit trays toward him and started eating quickly. I watched this man who acted with great spontaneity, wearing his Afghan cap on the back of his head in a distinguished way. He asked me to read my questions to him in Arabic all at once. I read the questions, totaling 21. He listened attentively and then said that he would answer them one by one. He started answering in Pashtu while Qanouni did the translating. Mas'ud had memorized UKAZ's questions by heart by the time he started answering them one after the other.

[Mas'ud] I want to clarify Afghanistan's current conditions to you. But let me first clarify to you the basics of what happened after the country's liberation.

Three years ago, we had dictator Najib's [Najibullah's] regime in Kabul. All the organizations existing in Peshawar at the time had despaired of toppling this regime. A number of countries supporting the mojahedin had also despaired of their success. Some of those countries even refrained intentionally from supporting the mojahedin for fear that they would triumph. Others had established special relations with dictator Najib's [Najibullah's] regime.

At the time, a number of fingers were pulling strings behind the curtain, not wishing to see the mojahedin succeed. So, they offered the UN initiative known as the B.C.N. to prevent the mojahedin from succeeding in Afghanistan.

Moreover, a number of organizations that had despaired of the mojahedin's triumph and that had been raising slogans saying "victory will come only through the rifle," such as the Hezb-e Eslami, accepted the initiative and offered [to send] 10 representatives to the United Nations. At the time, field commanders who had lived with the Afghan issue and who had fought the lackey communist regime decided to topple the regime from within Afghanistan. With God's help, two provinces adjacent to Baghram, which is close to Kabul, fell to the mojahedin's hands. Subsequently, the mojahedin triumphed, and the lackey regime surrendered to us.

We could have declared a government in our name and could have entered Kabul, considering that there was nothing to stop us and that the lackey regime had surrendered to our organization. Everybody knows this fact, and all commanders acknowledge it. Our strategy was not to take over power, and our plan was to leave rule for a coalition government comprised of the jihad organizations, whose leaders were in Peshawar, provided that it remain in power from six to 12 months, after which elections would be held and a decision-making consultative [shura] council would be formed. Thus, the Afghan people would determine their future and would know whom to select to lead them to this future. This was our strategy.

In fact, we launched steps complying with this strategy. But we gave all powers to the leaders and told them to form the government and to please take over power. This thing went on for 10 days. Organization leaders then got ready to seek the means to ensure government formation. At the time, Hekmatyar rejected all those accords. He came to Spin Shega and planned to stage a military coup by way of former communists who followed former Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanay. We informed all leaders that Hekmatyar was planning to embark on this act, and we asked them for their opinion on the situation. You can ask Mr. Sayyaf about this. All leaders agreed unanimously that we had to prevent Hekmatyar from carrying out his plan with utter force. I talked personally with Hekmatyar by radio for nearly 45 minutes. A recording of the conversation is available to everybody. One can distinguish my voice from Hekmatyar's voice in the recording. In the conversation, I appealed to Hekmatyar not to carry out the coup he had been planning. I told him that the government had surrendered to the mojahedin and that there was no need for a coup and for an assault against Kabul. But, throughout the conversation, he insisted that he was going to attack Kabul, using the pretext that the coalition government included communists and remnants of the previous regime. I asked him: Where is the coalition government you are talking about? We have not formed a government to date. You will form the government. I do not deny that there is in Kabul a general from the communist remnants. If you deport him, who will stop you. Form a government first, and then deport whomever you wish to deport. Despite this, Hekmatyar insisted on assaulting Kabul. At that point, I told him: If you insist on attacking Kabul, then it is my duty to defend it, and I did. Hekmatyar assaulted the city, and we defended it, driving Hekmatyar out. Fighting between us and Hekmatyar then went on until very recently.

Are Hekmatyar's contradictions anything but proof and argument for Hekmatyar to continue the war?

Initially, Hekmatyar said he would not accept Mojaddedi, adding: If I accept Mojaddedi, then why shouldn't I accept George Bush?

I said to him: Accept Mojaddedi just for a couple months, no more. But he responded: This is not an Islamic government. I cannot accept a non-Islamic government even for one hour! He also said: If I accept Mojaddedi's government for one hour, then this means that I have strayed from Islam for one hour. Therefore, I will continue the assault on Kabul. This was Hekmatyar's primary role.

Hekmatyar said at the time: If Rabbani were to replace Mojaddedi, then I would accept it.

When Mojaddedi's turn ended and Rabbani came to power, Hekmatyar sent an envoy to Mojaddedi to tell him that if he stayed as head of the government, he—Hekmatyar— would support him. It was then that Mojaddedi started insisting that he stay in power. Mojaddedi coordinated with General Dostam and with the Unity Party so closely that he promoted Dostam to a rank above a general's and gave him the title of Khalid Bin al-Walid to encourage the general to help him stay in power.

Mojaddedi also gave members of the Shi'ite Unity Party positions beyond that to which they are entitled in Afghanistan. But we were all determined and we worked to force him to resign. All leaders demanded firmly that Mojaddedi leave power.

Rabbani's turn came next. On the first day Rabbani assumed power, Hekmatyar hit Kabul with more missiles than ever before. His pretext was that there were militias in Kabul. The attacks continued until the Decision-Makers Consultative Council was formed. The Hezb-e Eslami, like the other organizations, participated in the council. But, when it found that it could not win over the people's support, it resumed shelling on the pretext that there were militias inside Kabul.

Afterward, the Islamabad talks were held. Before an agreement was concluded there, we forced Dostam's militias to leave Kabul. At that point, Hekmatyar said that he had not been talking about Dostam's militias and that he wanted a "Consultative Council of Overseers" to emanate from the government. Meanwhile, secret contacts were taking place between Hekmatyar, Mazari, and Dostam who organized their second campaign, but managed to accomplish nothing.

The Islamabad session followed and Hekmatyar insisted that he become prime minister. Shortly afterward, he began to organize a military coup against the state in cooperation with Dostam, Mazari, and Mojaddedi. Again, they formed a council under the name of the Supreme Consultative Council for Coordination and launched a military coup, but they were defeated.

Notice that Hekmatyar started the war inside Kabul on the pretext of the presence of Shaykh Mojaddedi there and that he then united and formed an alliance with Mojaddedi and carried on with the battle on the pretext that Dostam was in Kabul. He then formed an alliance with Dostam. Initially, he accused us of defending Mazari and then he formed an alliance with Mazari in the same manner and carried on with the war.

Throughout this long period, Hekmatyar has sought pretexts to justify his ceaseless shelling of Kabul. In every instance, he disavowed what he had said previously. Thus, Hekmatyar's matter is obvious.

We Are Not Ones To Pass Judgment

Second, I will talk about your question regarding Ahmad-Shah Mas'ud and the Shura-ye Nezar [Supervisory Council] being the ruler of Afghanistan. In this regard, I say that Afghanistan consists of various governorates. From the district level to the governorate level, the people elect all the officials. The government has supported these elections, from Jalalabad to Badekhshan and from Herat to Kandahar.

The Shura Nuzzar has nothing to do with these matters. We have finished elections at the governorate level and what remains now are cabinet ministers in Kabul. On this issue, the leaders divided cabinet portfolios among themselves. They divided them for the first time in Peshawar and then in Jalalabad a second time. What I mean is that cabinet portfolios and positions have been divided among the leaders and not by the Shura Nuzzar. I was minister of defense and the Shura Nuzzar asked me to depart, and I departed. So, who can tell you now that Ahmad-Shah Mas'ud holds a cabinet portfolio or that I participate in the government?

Every minister acquiring the position through his organization has appointed all ministry employees from the same organization. The Foreign Ministry was held by Ahmed Gaylani and the Communications Ministry was held by the Hezb-e Eslami. To this day, the majority of this ministry's employees are from the Hezb-e Eslami. This is unreasonable, of course. But this is how conditions are in a coalition government.

So, how can Ahmed Mas'ud or the Shura Nuzzar be ruling Afghanistan?

The governorates are controlled by their own people, and the cabinet ministries are divided among the leaders. So, how can it be said that I rule Afghanistan?

The only thing remaining in our hands is the security belt surrounding Kabul, which we have always defended, joined in this defense by various organizations, such as Harakat Enqelab-e Eslami, which is led by Wasef Mohseni and Ettehad-e [Eslami]. They are all present on the security belt. But the majority belongs to the Jami'at-e Eslami. We do not deny that, on this issue, most forces follow me. The main and important thing is that we shoulder all difficulties and hardship while cabinet positions and benefits are divided among the parties. When fighting starts, we find nobody. But when matters stabilize, everybody comes forward. This is my answer to your question regarding the accusation that all power is in the hands of the Panjshir people, to whom I belong.

To Whom Should We Transfer Power?

We now come to the transfer of power. The Jami'at decided repeatedly and agreed to the transfer of power. But I ask you: To whom should we transfer power? Let somebody tell me to whom we should transfer power.

Our position has always been that we should transfer power to a consultative council that represents the people. Let us work on this basis: How can we reach the people's true representatives?

We have always told all organizations and the Hezb-e Eslami: Come let us work on this basis, and let us achieve this goal so we can transfer power to the people's deputies and representatives. There are organizations that raise the slogan of democracy outside. But when they sit at the negotiations table and discuss matters, one finds that they abandon this position. How many times have we met with the Hezb-e Eslami?

Qotboddin Hilal from the Hezb-e Eslami is available, so ask him. In the latest negotiations we have had with the Hezb-e Eslami, Qotboddin Hilal said that they were going to hit Kabul with missiles heavily, not lightly, unless we shared the positions with them. All organizations say that they agree to the people's consultative assembly. They add: But, before this happens, come let us share positions and cabinet portfolios. We dare any organization to deny that it has proposed such a thing to us.

We tell them that if positions and cabinet portfolios are divided among the organizations, then what value would the consultative assembly have? We told them that the coalition government was not serving the people, adding: So, let us turn to the people to form the consultative assembly by election. Until when should we rely on the coalition government? But they were not willing.

All organizations say the same thing and insist on sharing positions and cabinet seats. This means that they do not care for Islam or for rescuing Afghanistan. All they care for is positions!

Those who love Islam and love their country, Afghanistan, remained in Afghanistan with their families despite all circumstances. But how could those who live abroad and whose families and businesses are abroad love their country?

An example is Shaykh Mohammedi who, when asked why he would not go to Kabul, said that Kabul's "climate" affects his health and does not suit him. The same applies to the others.

We are now faced with organizations that had no role in the struggle inside Afghanistan and that have been formed with support from outside Afghanistan. They know perfectly well that they are not projected as part of the people's options and that they are undesirable. Therefore, all allegations that we control the government and that we are not willing to transfer power are groundless. The UN delegate has now proposed the formation of a consultative assembly from among governorate delegates. We have accepted. So, let Hekmatyar declare his acceptance of this proposal. Let them all come and form the people's consultative assembly and transfer power.

We Disagree With Mestiri

We now come to how the people's representatives are to be chosen. On this point, we disagree with [UN Envoy] Mahmoud Mestiri. We say that there has to be a mechanism for the selection of true representatives by the people. But Mestiri proposes that a limited number come from Dostam's faction, the Hezb-e Eslami, and the Taleban, for example, according to their choices. But we believe that the people's true representative must be selected. This means that we trust the people and that we insist on this trust. This is our position. So, when the organizations insist that we transfer power, we ask them: To whom should we transfer it? Should we transfer it to Dostam, to the Consultative Assembly for Coordination, or to foreign agents? To whom should we transfer it?

There has to be an authority, and this authority must be chosen by the people.

These allegations are groundless and unfounded. We now come to the accusation that I prevent Rabbani from transferring power.

The issue is not a personal issue of my preventing Rabbani from transferring power. You can ask and inquire, and you will find out for certain that I have urged Rabbani to transfer power. I declared my determination at the special UN session. I was the first to declare the opinion that Rabbani must transfer power.

Hekmatyar Assassinated Azzam

Let us now come to your question about the continued battles and fighting between us since the Russian withdrawal.

The issue is very obvious, and I will tell you the truth. I mentioned at the outset that there are certain centers that do not want the regime in Afghanistan to be Islamic and that do not want the mojahedin to rule the country. Previously, they made the B.C.I. proposals to belittle the significance of the mojahedin's victory and of the establishment of an Islamic government. They thought that all organization leaders and field commanders were in their control. But what they did not count on is that when God wants something, then what God wants happens. The jihad period, particularly the final phase of the jihad, was distinguished by miracle-making. At that time, some parties tried to prevent the jihad from gaining a strong position in Afghanistan and constantly fought such a development.

They put varied military pressure on the mojahedin. But God's will was carried out with the mojahedin's triumph. From beginning to end, i.e., from the beginning of the jihad, they gave the Shura-ye Nezar forces, which controlled 12 of Afghanistan's governorates, a total of eight Stinger missiles whereas they supplied ordinary commanders of the other parties with a larger number. For example, when a weapon known as B.M.I. was supplied to all commanders, Shura-ye Nezar was given only one of those weapons three years after their distribution was started. There were foreign parties who did this intentionally to us so our forces would not gain strength at a time when the Russians' attacks were aimed at us. Out of the millions of dollars that came to Afghanistan as aid funds, I would like somebody to tell me how much the Shura-ye Nezar got?

In the final days of the jihad, Dr. 'Abdollah Azzam, may God have mercy upon his soul, toured our frontlines and decided to grant us aid and weapons. This is the reason Hekmatyar assassinated him.

They accused us of receiving aid from the United States, France, and various other circles. The accusations are untrue. Three years have now lapsed since the mojahedin's triumph, and what have these people given us? Nothing. Let us return to the root of the issue.

There were centers that wanted to prevent the mojahedin from scoring their victory and accomplishing their triumph.

Second, neighboring countries wanted to establish their interests in Afghanistan, led by Iran, which does not want Afghanistan to be independent and strong. Meanwhile, everybody has forgotten his Islamic and moral duty toward Afghanistan.

These are the reasons that have led to continued battles and fighting among the Afghan factions. We, the people who started from within Afghanistan and who delegated the leaders to assume power, continued to shoulder the responsibility of fighting these plots and problems inside Afghanistan, without having any foreign financiers and without receiving any foreign aid. But they continue to seek daily pretexts: One day it is Mojaddedi, another day the militias, and a third day it is the Shura-ye Nezar or the Panjshiri people. We view all these allegations as pretexts to keep the country in an anxious condition. We now have the latest plot, the Taleban plot.

The Taleban started with slogans that pleased the citizens, saying that they apply Islam and the shari'ah. But, within a short period, citizens discovered that the Taleban are not what they say they are. All the citizens have realized that they are foreigners' agents. However, the Afghan people have defeated these successive plots.

These people have defeated the communists and their remnants, and we will defeat all these foreign plots.

However, I say that all this has been accomplished with God's help, may He be exalted. At present, I feel not one iota of anxiety, even if all forces rally to support these plots. This is because I have great trust in God that the Afghan people will continue to score victories against all plots. Militarily, the enemies have been defeated. Politically, we are willing, even though we know and we are certain that the Taleban are foreigners' agents, to sit and negotiate with them so as to prevent continuation of the war in our country. We have "one thing to say": Let us consult the people. When it is impossible to hold 100-percent free elections, then we can return to the old council, the so-called Decision-Making Consultative Council, or any other mechanism through which we can consult the people's opinions. When we call for consulting the people's opinions, this means that this consultation must take place beyond the organizations' framework. Anybody selected by the people will be given unanimous approval. We said the same thing to the United Nations about selecting governorate delegates.

We Have Defeated Hekmatyar

As for Hekmatyar, he alleges that government forces have not defeated him and that he has withdrawn to Sarowbi of his own free will. Here, I ask you: What is the meaning of defeat? It means the loss of weapons, land, and manpower. Hekmatyar has lost all three elements. Perhaps he still has the will to renew the war in Afghanistan. I have no doubt about this. Now that Hekmatyar has been defeated, we do not consider him a threat. If the government wanted to oust him from Sarowbi, where he lives now, it could. The main issue now is the Taleban issue and the Dostam issue in the north. As for Hekmatyar, he has lost everything militarily.

As for the Taleban, we still find that the ideal method is negotiation. We do not encourage the war and fighting approach because it is not in the people's interest. We still say that we are prepared for power transfer, for elections, and for establishing a provisional government. We are even prepared to withdraw from our positions in the government. But let the other factions be willing to have the people's representatives selected.

The Taleban is a force that is supported by foreigners. The Taleban receive now the aid that went previously to Hekmatyar

Hekmatyar really surprises me. During Mojaddedi's administration, he shelled Kabul with missiles on the pretext that he could not accept Shaykh Mojaddedi. He used to say: I cannot withstand Mojaddedi even for one hour. Now, Hekmatyar has entered into an alliance with Mojaddedi, Dostam, and the Unity Party, installing Mojaddedi as this alliance chairman.

[Taha] But I asked Mojaddedi about this issue, and he said that he has not agreed to it.

[Mas'ud] He will, and I am talking about Hekmatyar's alliance with Mojaddedi, even though Hekmatyar said during Mojaddedi's administration that if he accepted Mojaddedi for two hours, this would mean that he strayed from Islam for two hours.

[Taha] Hekmatyar says that the reason he is fighting you is that you promised not to attack him if the Taleban attacked him but that you did not keep your promise.

[Mas'ud] Let Hekmatyar say where I attacked him? What is the number of fatalities? What happened is that Hekmatyar withdrew from the area around Kabul, and we seized this area before the Taleban could.

[Taha] Well, there are those who say that Mas'ud receives aid from France and that he surrounds himself with French advisers.

[Mas'ud] Before I answer this question, I will ask you: What is your evaluation of governmental and security conditions in Kabul? However, I say that if this is true, then where is the French aid? If the French aid the Afghan Government, then why doesn't France declare this aid? I will say now that if France will aid the government, we will accept such aid. We do not conceal this fact.

[Taha] Rabbani has announced that he will reshuffle the cabinet. What structure will the cabinet take, in your opinion?

[Mas'ud] The new reshuffle is not in the sense that many have understood it to be. What will happen is that ministers will be appointed to the portfolios not filled currently. The government seeks very seriously to introduce governmental reforms that serve the people. This does not mean that we disagree with peace.

[Taha] It is noticed that the current security conditions in Kabul are reassuring. Can you guarantee that these conditions will continue?

[Mas'ud] At the security level, Dostam, the Unity Party, Hekmatyar, and the Taleban will not be able to do anything against us separately from now on. I find it unlikely that foreign hands will again try to push our country toward instability by uniting the Taleban, Dostam, the Unity Party, and Hekmatyar. However, we trust in God, and we are prepared to wipe out any other future plot.

[Taha] Would you urge fraternal and friendly countries to reopen their embassies in Kabul? What I mean is: Are the conditions this reassuring?

[Mas'ud] Yes, and I stress that conditions are reassuring from all aspects. This is a golden opportunity for these countries to reopen their embassies in Afghanistan.

[Taha] It is noticed that your forces have taken defensive positions vis-a—vis the Taleban. Will you change your strategy to confront them in the future?

[Mas'ud] Yes, we have taken a defensive position. Our forces have explicit and strict orders not to attack them because we still aspire to get together and to hold negotiations with them in order to develop an understanding and prevent bloodshed, even though we have the full capability and enough forces to wipe out the Taleban. However, it seems that they are gradually forcing us to take this step. For the interest of our country and its citizens, we will be compelled to change our strategy from the defensive to the offensive because we want to devote ourselves to reform in Afghanistan.

[Taha] Do you believe that Hekmatyar sponsors terrorism and violence? What is your opinion of what is rumored about him in this regard?

[Mas'ud] One of Hekmatyar's main problems is that he identifies himself as something more than he really is. He thinks of becoming the Muslim's caliph or the prince of the faithful in the world. He believes that no Muslims understand Islam as he understands it and that he is the only one capable of applying Islam and the Islamic system. Accordingly, he gathers individuals from the Muslim countries and educates and trains them. He has objectives and goals behind this effort, of course. I ask: What will he do in the other Islamic countries? Hekmatyar plans for what is beyond Afghanistan.

[Taha] Allow me to shift to another issue. The Pakistanis say that you are very sensitive to them....

[Mas'ud, interrupting] This is untrue. Afghanistan does not wish to be Pakistan's enemy. Islam unites us, and it does not make a distinction between races and languages. Pakistani opened its border to Afghan refugees, and it helped us during the jihad days. We thank them, and we appreciate them for this. We disagree only with what the Pakistani intelligence are doing.

[Taha] You have said that the Taleban receive aid from abroad and that you have the evidence to prove it. What is your proof to this accusation?

[Mas'ud] I have private information to the effect that the main director of the Taleban Group is a former interior minister of a neighboring country and that he makes the arrangements for aid, funds, and expertise. This is first.

Second, there is in the neighboring country an Islamic society that closes schools and urges their students to take up the jihad, ordering these students to go to Afghanistan. What is your opinion of this? How can one explain such a thing happening without premeditated and well-studied planning? Never. Impossible.

Third, why doesn't the party concerned stop the students who move in their vehicles by the hundreds and head for Kandahar, an Afghan city? Why doesn't this party stop them, especially since they cross the border with weapons? The Taleban raise the slogans of applying the shari'ah and gathering weapons. They have carried out such acts in Herat. What are their justifications for attacking this province?

I ask: Where did the Taleban get the money they spend. Come let us add it up, giving an example in this regard: One time, 500 Taleban marched to one of the fronts. They came in five vehicles, each capable of carrying 100 persons. How much fuel and expenditures do these vehicles need, and what are the expenses of training, arming, and feeding each of the Taleban?

I know how immense and difficult are these expenses. I went to them personally in Meydan Shahr and said to them: There is no call for fighting and for war between us. Tell me what you want.

They said: We want to apply the shari'ah. I said: I agree. They then said: We want all the weapons. I also agreed with them on this. They demanded many things, and I gave them my approval, telling them: On behalf of Rabbani and Sayyaf, I accept and I agree with you, provided that we sit together and resolve our problems by dialogue and negotiation. I also said to them: You want to ignite war in Kabul. In Kabul is where the government is, and the government possesses fighter aircraft and weapons with which we can fight you. What I mean is that Kabul is not like the other provinces. They asked that they nominate their ulema and we nominate ours to solve the problems. We agreed and gathered ulema from 21 governorates. We agreed that we would approve what the ulema decided. We waited and then sent dozens of letters to tell them that our ulema were waiting for theirs. But they did not keep their promise, which means that they cannot make any decision on their own and that there is another authority that decides for them.

Bangladesh

Christian-Jewish Conspiracy Against Islam Claimed

95AS0400C Dhaka INQILAB in Bengali 4 May 95 p 7

[Article by Khalid Hosen: "The Jewish-Christian Conspiracy Against the Islamic Ummah"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In spite of religious, political and social differences, Jews and Christians are united against Muslims. In a campaign against any Muslim state, the Jewish and Christian powers take united action. Coopting one Muslim country, they then attack another Muslim country to destroy its existence. After World War II, Britain, Russia, France and the U.S. divided the whole of Middle East among themselves. Palestine and Lebanon fell under the control of Britain and France respectively. The declaration of the Christian foreign minister of Britain Arthur James Belfore in 1917 to establish a separate state for the Jewish people in the occupied Palestine was echoed by U.S. President Truman in 1945. After the end of the British mandate in Palestine on May 14, 1948, David Bengurian formally declared the establishment of the separate state of Israel with its capital in Tel Aviv. Within ten minutes of the declaration the U.S. recognized Israel, and after 48 hours Britain, France and Russia. After the opening of mutual embassies, the Christian powers began to offer political and economic help to the new state of Israel. Israel is thus the product of an illegal friendship between Jews and Christians. With the help of different Christian countries, Israel captured 91 percent of Palestinian territory including Jerusalem. By virtue of three wars with neighboring countries Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, Israel captured the West Bank of the Jordan river, Gaza and Golan Heights. Israel took up the plan to rehabilitate the Jews of different countries of the world including Russia in the occupied territory. Christian dominated institutions like World Bank, IMF and United Nations funded money for the rehabilitation program of Israel. Renowned scholar and journalist Saiyad Tosaraf Ali rightly commented - "Though the Arab states rejected the declaration of the Jewish state, they failed to declare the foundation of a separate Palestinian state. The Arab rulers failed either to take a strong political action or to handle the situation by diplomatic efforts. They even could not properly identify the enemies then. But Britain and France were active from the very beginning to wipe out Islam and Muslim power and civilization from the whole of Egypt and Palestine. Unfortunately, the Muslim leadership at that time could not identify the anti-Muslim conspiracy. As a result, the Muslim countries of the Middle East are dependent on the mercy of USA and Israel. At the beginning of this century, Jerusalem's population was 75 percent Muslim and the Jewish population was 25 percent, at the close of the century the population ratio has changed completely." With the help of their Christian friends, the Jews are not happy to found Israel in Jerusalem only, they are active to materialize the plan to expand the frontier of their state from river Nile in Egypt to Forat in Iraq. With the help of different Christian countries, Israel has become a nuclear power and according to the newspaper report, Israel has more than two hundred nuclear missiles. The U.S. gives military and economic aid to Israel each year worth $30 Billion [as published] in order to keep Muslim states nervous. Whenever discussion began in the United Nations regarding the Israeli destruction of the refugee camps of Shatila and Sabara in 1983, torture and forceful dislodging of the Palestinians from their ancestral homes, the U.S. objected 26 times and vetoed 10 times. Whenever any Muslim state anywhere in the world has tried to stand independently, or tried to be economically strong, or has attempted to get political stability, immediately the leaders of international Jewish-Christian force —United States, Britain and France engaged in a conspiracy to destroy them. They use United Nations, World Bank, IMF, NATO and Consortium as their weapons. To counter the anti-colonial movement in Iran, they used Saddam Hussein and after the beginning of Iran-Iraq war, they forced Iraq to buy modern arms. The had a role behind Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. To drive out Iraq from Kuwaiti soil in the name of Desert Storm, they employed a large number of multi-national forces in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other nations to carry on their mission of extortion. To prevent Iraq's effort to gain military supremacy using her modern technology and war experience, they used the United Nations to impose sanction against Iraq. Now they are trying to divide Egypt and Sudan on lines [inhabited by] Muslims and Christians. Lebanon is already virtually divided into two provinces. They have already set a web of conspiracy to prevent any unity of the Muslim countries on the basis of the ideals of Islam. They are keeping alive the conflicts between Iran and Iraq, Iraq and Kuwait, Yemen and Saudi Arabia and their agents are busy creating a war like situation among the Muslim countries. Because arms sale will increase in case of a war. In 1995 United States will sell arms worth one billion dollars and Saudi Arabia alone will buy 6.9 million dollars of arms. Whenever Pakistan wanted to achieve strength economically and militarily, the United States became concerned. The United States stopped economic and military aid to Pakistan in 1990 and that is still effective. In 1988-89, Pakistan paid the United States 6.5 million dollars to purchase 38 F-16 aircraft. The United States did not supply those planes and not even returned money given by Pakistan as advanced payment. When Libya was gaining economic strength, the Jewish-Christian group began a conspiracy to destroy Libya's economic backbone. On the basis of a lame excuse, they put economic sanctions on Libya with the help of the Security Council. Libya has rejected the Anglo—U.S. demand to extradite two suspected persons for the destruction of the Pan Am flight over the skies of Scotland in 1988. In their far-sighted attempt to weaken the Muslim powers worldwide, the Jewish-and Christian conspirators are trying to create a Druze state in the Golan Heights in Syria, Kurdistan in Iraq and Turkeministan in Afganistan. They are also active to create an independent Bangabhumi [Hindu homeland in Bangladesh] consisting of some northern districts of Bangladesh and an independent Paktunistan within Pakistan. Whenever in any country in the world, Islamic movements get momentum and struggle for the establishment of Islamic laws, the Jewish-Christian group and their agents try to create an obstruction. They use the ruling and opposition powers to brutally crush the reawakening of the Islamic movement. The United States, Britain and France are keeping the autocratic regimes intact in some other Arab countries to wipe out the revolutionary movement of Ikhwan-Al-Muslemin in the Middle-East. [passage omitted]

Solution to Water Dispute With India Demanded

95AS0400D Dhaka INQILAB in Bengali 6 May 95 P 6

[Editorial:" No More Assurances; We Want the Water"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao again gave assurances. After the conclusion of the South Asian Area Regional Conference summit, he gave assurances in a news conference in New Delhi that he hoped that a solution could be found for the complicated water dispute between India and Bangladesh in the near future. Before that the question of water dispute was discussed in a meeting between Begum Khaleda Zia and Narasimha Rao, the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India. On the basis of that meeting, the discussion of the issue began at the secretary level. It is not the first time that Narasimha Rao gave such an assurance. In the meeting with Khaleda Zia in New Delhi in 1992, Narasimha Rao made a more positive statement. He expressed his desire to solve the water dispute and promised to see that no damage is done to Bangladesh due to water problem. After that promise, discussions were held at different levels including the ministerial level. But nothing happened in those meetings. At one stage those discussions were stopped completely. The Bangladeshi prime minister had to open the closed doors of the discussion in New Delhi and again discussion began. We do not know that how long this discussion will go on and when a solution will be found. A lot of discussions have already been taken place amongst experts, representatives, secretaries, ministers and even at the highest political levels. But no solution has been found. Water is a life and death question for the people of Bangladesh and cannot be confined to the discussion table. It should be noted that starting from the lowest level the discussion gradually reached the highest level and then again a fresh start from lowest level. This has been going on for a long time. There is no doubt that the solution of this water dispute depends on the political goodwill of India. Unfortunately, India failed to prove her goodwill at the highest level of discussions. The question is whether we have to be happy with this kind of assurance and optimism? India does not realize or does not want to realize the crisis Bangladesh faces due to this water problem. One comment of Narasimha Rao proves the fact. In reply to a question, he said that he does not think the withdrawal of water in the upper delta of Bangladesh is a violation of human rights. The Indian perspective is clear from this comment. Withdrawal of water from the same river flowing through two countries in its upper course by creating a dam and thus depriving the flow of water in the lower course is a violation of international law. The country situated in the lower course of the river and its people have the equal right in the water of the river. In fact, Narasimha Rao denied such rights by his comment. The assurances on one hand for the solution of the water dispute and denial of the justification of the right of Bangladesh on that matter clearly mean that those assurances are meaningless and nothing but a bluff. Narasimha Rao takes it to be the right of India to obstruct the flow of water in the upper course of the river by erecting a dam. In that case, is there any hope for Bangladesh to get back her rights? It goes without saying that India is diverting water from the Ganga river by the Farraka dam. At the beginning, through many pacts, Bangladesh had some surety to receive a portion of water. But that situation is not existing anymore. No contract was signed on this matter since 1988 and India never agreed to sign any such contract. As a result, for last few years Bangladesh is not getting water in the dry season. It has created a serious situation in Bangladesh. The natural environment, economy, agriculture and industrial development are severely affected by this. The rivers of Bangladesh are drying up and serious damage is found in the fisheries industry. Sundarban [virgin forest area] is on the way to destruction. The northern part is getting drier and drier. The salty atmosphere is grasping the south-western area. Radical change has taken place in the climate. In short, the life of the people of Bangladesh is severely affected. It is not only the violation of human rights, it is also violation of the right of a country. India's attitude as expressed in the comments of Narasimha Rao makes it clear that there is no hope of getting proper share of the water of Ganga river with the goodwill of India. Not only Ganga, this is applicable to the water of other rivers also that flow through the two countries. India has already diverting water from other rivers by making dams and now she is planning to build some other dams on some other rivers. In the circumstances, there is no justification to place trust in India's assurances. We do not want assurances or optimistic statements. We want water. If India does not supply water voluntarily, then Bangladesh has to find out all possible means to get water. This problem must be solved.

India

Editorial Questions U.S. Motives, Interests

BK1906130295 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 12 Jun 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Guns and roses"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US seems to be sprawling all over the country. From business to defence, the US Government is setting the pace for India to keep up. The Americans are thinking in terms of creating a flotilla, to be styled the "Fifth Fleet", to protect American interests in the Indian Ocean region. The US step, which follows a joint exercise in the Indian Ocean with India, and the Pacific fleet Commander Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper's talks with his Indian counterparts, is not altruistic, but strategic (read selfish). After establishing a dominant presence in the Persian Gulf area in the wake of the Gulf War, Washington seems to be looking to the Indian Ocean region, with its fast growing economies and expanding markets especially in South and Southeast Asia. The US has a toehold in the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] grouping and the latest defence moves will only consolidate its position. And, in such an approach, India must come necessarily high on the US agenda, after China, a change from the days when Islamabad, not New Delhi, was important for Washington.

The change of heart may have also been because, besides the market, India has, much to the surprise of the US, shown its capabilities in strategic areas against significant odds, several being Washington's making. American strategic planners have had to take notice of India's successful missile programme and the development of cryogenic engines, even as it is perceived as a nuclear weapons threshold state. The Pentagon cannot but acknowledge New Deihi's clout, including military, in the region, and no security planning can ignore India. Last week, joint exercises, including some in the mountains of Dehra Dun, and the defence talks scheduled later this month are the first earnest efforts to build a relationship from scratch.

But the wooing, as the US itself admits, has to be necessarily a slow, gradual process. It cannot be at the cost of its bosom friends, China and Pakistan nor can it disturb the regional power balance. After the Pressler Amendment of 1991, which led to a cooling of relations between the US and Pakistan, Washington is trying to revive the security relationship after the heady days of cooperation in the 1980s during the Afghanistan war. As part of the new rapprochement with Pakistan, the US conducted high altitude manoeuvres with its Army in the Siachen area.

But, then, Washington and Islamabad are old time mates. The post-Pressler Amendment phase was but a hiccup in the relationship between the traditional allies. Another, more significant case is that of China, with which the US had become frosty in the years after the Tiananmen Square happenings. But things changed when China started its transition to a market economy and the mutual chats warmed up. Probably yet another pointer to US guns backing up dollars. But with the US now wooing both China and India, it has to ensure that neither side, especially New Delhi, gets the wrong message. India cannot be blamed for being wary of China and though Washington denies there is any cause for worry, any further ganging up can only make New Delhi more suspicious. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, India lost a valuable ally and the world a counterpoise to the US. The situation in the former Soviet Union is such that Washington is talking of the security of the new Central Asian republics for it does not want them to return to Moscow's fold.

Stated simply, the US is not going to give up a game it has in its pocket. It wants to be the lone superpower, to keep its economy growing. Witness the way it pushed through the extension of the Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and is now flexing its muscle to force open the Japanese market. The US Government is up against an economic disappointment. Its consumers seem to prefer foreign products while its industry cannot get foreigners to buy enough, causing a huge trade deficit. No wonder the US is turning to the Indian Ocean, with its relative stability and emerging markets.

While, the Indian Government is yet to crystallise its response, New Delhi may not be averse to having Washington at least looking at it favourably, if not on its side entirely, given the fluid situation in Kashmir and Sri Lanka and the general thirst for foreign investment. But India must also beware that this toehold does not transform into a high pressure grip that may lead to New Delhi making compromises on such crucial issues as the NPT. When the dollars come in, the guns can never be far behind.

Daily Views U.S. Reaction to Kashmir Dispute

BK2006105695 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 17 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The United States Between Sharif and Benazir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto requested that the United States mediate on the Kashmir issue. In fact, her real intention was that the United States should keep on speaking against India whether it mediated or not. Although the United States refused the offer, under this pretext it got an opportunity to speak on the internal matters of Pakistan. The latest example is the Clinton administration's pulling the leg of the Benazir government with gay abandon on the issue concerning the case of treason going on against the opposition leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif. Expressing its serious concern on the growing hostility between the Benazir government and Nawaz Sharif, the United States stated that such examples boded ill not only for the Government of Pakistan but for its judiciary, too. The spokesman of the U.S. State Department went to the extent of saying that they were closely monitoring the dispute. The U.S. spokesman also expressed many more worries, which clearly reflect the United States' intervention in the internal affairs of Pakistan and its desire to make the Pakistani Government dance to its tune. Perhaps the motivating factor is the U.S. Administration's desire to strike an even balance between the parties in power and in opposition in Pakistan so that even in the future, whichever party assumes power may remain its protege. Maybe the United States has gotten the scent of Nawaz Sharif's growing popularity and Benazir's plummeting hold on the people, which provided an opportunity to it to scold Benazir. But the question is: What is the locus standi of the United States to meddle in the bickerings of the two political parties of a country? How could the United States sit in judgment to decide whether Nawaz Sharif committed any acts of treason or not? Apparently the cries of 'wolf-wolf' which Pakistan persistently utters to raise the Indian bogey and request the United States to meddle on its behalf have boomeranged upon itself. Now Pakistan cannot dare speak against the United States even if it wants to. When Indira Gandhi decided to declare a state of emergency in India, the then U.S. President Gerald Ford, did criticize her. Although the declaration of the state of emergency was in itself a wrong decision, Ford's criticism was subjected to India-wide protest including that of our opposition, which also severely denounced Ford's unwanted and unauthorized remark. Unfortunately, the leaders of Pakistan have so meekly subjected themselves to the command of the United States that even if they want, they cannot utter a single word of protest. As far as the case of treason against Nawaz Sharif is concerned, it is quite controversial. The basic charge upon him is his using extraconstitutional measures to remove the chief minister of Punjab during his tenure as prime minister. This charge, however, is not so serious as to make Benazir paint it as an act of high treason after two years! Even inside Pakistan, Benazir is being condemned for this decision, which apparently comes from a political vendetta. But speaking on this issue, the United States has suddenly made it appear very important.

Simulator Developed To Train on Russian MiG-29's

BK1906143295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 12 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangalore UNITED NEWS OF INDIA: The Aeronautical Development Establishment [ADE] has developed a prototype "AB initio desktop training simulator" for the Indian Air Force [IAF] to train its pilots on MiG-29's acquired from Russia.

Sources in the ADE said here that the IAF wanted the simulators to be located in its various bases across the country to provide basic training on the MiG-29s.

The sophisticated simulator would cost about Rs [rupees] one crore each as against the more effective and complicated training simulators, each priced at Rs five crore.

Sources said these simulators could generate 30 images per second though they might not provide graphic details of the scenario for flying which more sophisticated simulators could do.

The new machine also lacked the three-dimensional visuals provided by bigger simulators. However, the desktop simulator would meet fully the requirements specified by the IAF, sources said.

They said when the pilots started operating the desktop simulator, the analogue input was converted into digital code by a personal computer and transferred to a silicon graphics computer, which in real time got projected as visuals in a monitor. This would enable the pilot to steer the joy stick to his requirement with the entire process taking less than one-thirtieth of a second.

The flight simulation division of ADE had considerably enhanced its simulation facility to support the design for light combat aircraft [LCA]. From a single-window system four years ago, the LCA simulator had been developed into a state-of-the-art pilot in the loop simulation support to LCA design, sources said.

A sophisticated real time simulation facility had been set up to evaluate flight control laws being developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency for LCA, prior to the commencement of its flight test pace. It could also be controlled from a panel outside, sources added.

Such simulators were available only in a few countries. The new machine not only accelerated the development process for the combat aircraft, but also eliminated hazardous and unsafe design conditions which could be discovered only in actual flights, sources said. According to the sources, ADE proposed to enlist the participation of Indian industries in this venture.

The flight control laws brought forth by the LCA design team was converted into a software programme from mathematical calculations to enable the designers to evaluate their performance. Besides this design simulator, the ADE had also provided training simulators for Ajit and Kiran trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force in 1988, sources said.

The simulator, which has a horizontal coverage of 135 degrees, supplies imageries at a speed of 30 to 60 imageries per second to the pilot giving a real time experience.

The visual system has been considerably enhanced to provide the pilot details of the sky and the ground below.

The scientists developing the simulator have also taken into account the unstable flying conditions obtained by the aircraft. Earlier, the ADE had also provided a computer-based maintenance simulator for MiG 29 aircrafts to the air force.

ADE was also erecting another simulator to enable pilots train in combat situations. The simulator, whose development was in an advanced stage, would simulate pilots to a real combat situation with the rival aircraft engaged in dog fights or attack from the front.

The simulator with a 360 degree projection could be controlled by an instructor who from a panel could simulate war like situation to test the pilots.

Russia To Supply Trainer Aircraft

BK1906144095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Jun 95 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — Russia has offered 'concrete terms' to India on supply of its just developed new MiG-AT trainer aircraft, reports PTI.

Russia offered to supply the aircraft within six months during the just concluded joint Indo-Russian Commission for implementing the inter-governmental agreement held last week in Moscow, according to official sources here.

The MiG-AT trainer version, designed by the Mikoyan aircraft designing bureau, is equipped with French engines and avionics. The jet would be unveiled at the ongoing Paris Air Show, which Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and his delegation would witness on Wednesday [14 June].

The Russians first offered the MiG trainer aircraft to India, then still at development stage, during the visit to India of the First Deputy Defence Minister and then followed up the offer with 'concrete terms' at the meeting in Moscow last week.

The Indian Air Force [IAF] has urgently projected to the Government the need for induction of at least sixty advanced jet trainer aircraft and the Government had earlier, shortlisted the British Hawk 200 and French Alphajet.

In fact, the British Aerospace, the makers of Hawk advanced jet trainer had almost clinched the deal during talks with Indian Defence Ministry. However, the sudden Russian interest to sell MiG- AT trainer aircraft at competitive price with a package deal on technology transfer has stalled it.

The Indian defence ministry was forced to look hard at the Russian offer as the Indian Air Force's frontline inventory of jet belongs to the various MiG variants and its training and technology transfer would prove to be much faster and easier.

The two rounds of talks that the Indians held with Russian Mikoyan and government officials had a stunning effect as share prices of British Aerospace plunged hard on international stock markets.

According to Mr Fedor Timofeyev, chief of the Moscow Aviation Production Amalgamation (MAPA) which deals with sale of Russian defence equipment to other countries, "Russian aircraft manufacturers consider India to be a highly promising market for combat and training aircraft."

India and Russia, after the last December visit of the first Deputy Russian Defence minister have formed a Russian-Indian company, which aims at servicing and upgrading MiG-21 aircraft. India is to phase out almost sixty per cent of its mainstay MiG 21 fleet and is currently embarked upon an ambitious plans to upgrade the aircraft.

The upgradation of the MiG-21 aircraft — a project involving Rs [rupees] 300 crore — has already been bagged by MAPA.

As part of the growing India-Russia defence cooperation, the MAPA chief also announced that delivery of the first of the 10 MiG-29 jet aircraft had begun to India.

India, according to IAF sources here, is buying these ten MiG- 29's as a backup for its already 60 strong complement of MiG-29 Air superiority jet aircraft.

The MAPA chief said, the new MiG-29's would be dispatched to India in a partially dismantled form by An-124 transport aircraft and then assembled at the Indian MiG plants under the supervision of Russian experts.

Prospects 'Brightened' for Iranian Gas Pipeline

BK1906142195 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 12 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy PRESS TRUST OF INDIA — The prospects of India-Iranian gas pipeline have brightened with the just-concluded agreement in Islamabad to set up a joint venture company to lay and supervise the pipeline from Iran to Pakistan, industry sources said here.

Iranian Minister for Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kh'oi and his Pakistani counterpart Anwar Saifullah signed the pact on Wednesday [7 June] on the multimillion dollar pipeline which could later be extended to India.

India and Iran have shown keen interest in the last two years during their high-level contacts to execute the five billion dollars mega project extending over 2,000 kilometers to supply 50 million cubic metres of Iranian gas annually to India by the turn of the century.

The route of the pipeline is yet to be decided with five options being examined by technical experts to channel the gas from the coast of Iran which accounts for 15 percent of the world's proven resources.

While four of the proposed routes would be under sea along Pakistan's coastline, the fifth one would be over land including some areas of Pakistan.

Iran said Pakistan has agreed not to block the Iranian gas for India if the pipeline passes through its territory which augured well for regional cooperation.

The agreement reached in Islamabad now paves the way for the construction of the pipeline from the southern parts fields in Iran to Pakistan by a consortium which would also operate and maintain the project.

For carrying the gas to India, the pipeline has to be extended from the coastal town of Gadani in Pakistan, 55 kms west of Karachi. The Iran-Pakistan part of the conduit is expected to be completed in five years.

Reports said six pre-qualified oil and gas companies would be invited by July to participate in the project. Pakistan needs an additional 400 million cubic feet of natural gas daily. Four foreign firms have made concrete offers to execute the Indo-Iranian pipeline.

The two countries are also holding talks on a Rs [rupees] 240- crore Teheran metro project to be built with Indian assistance. The metro project had run into rough weather because of cash crunch faced by Iran which is reportedly studying the option to pay for the project through the supply of crude oil.

India-Iranian ties received a boost with the recent visit of the Iranian president 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India.

Chinese Accord Signed on Health Sector Cooperation

BK1706120095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have signed an agreement to cooperate in the field of health and family welfare. The accord was signed in New Delhi yesterday by the health secretary, Mr. M.S. Dayal, and the Chinese vice minister of health, Dr. He Jiesheng. Under the agreement both sides will cooperate in the areas of yoga, acupuncture, pharmacology, malaria control, child health care, and family planning through exchange of experts.

Official Assures Missile Programs Unhindered

95AS0443A Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 17 May 95 p 9

[Unattributed article: "No Let Up in Prithvi, Agni Work"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] New Delhi, May 16: The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao declared in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the Agni and Prithvi technology demonstration programmes would continue as conceived earlier and no amount of persuasion or pressure, which has been alleged to have been brought on India, would make an iota of difference in the programmes.

The Prime Minister was replying to a discussion on the budget demands for grants relating to the defence ministry, which the House passed later by voice vote. The opposition cut-motions were earlier rejected by the House by voice vote.

Mr Rao assured the House that there would be no let up in the programmes nor would there be any modifications because of outside pressures.

Stating that deployment of Prithvi was currently under consideration, he said he would take the Parliament into confidence when a decision was taken on it.

Dispelling the apprehensions expressed by some members, Mr Rao asserted that the capability and the efficiency of the armed forces would not be allowed to be impeded on account of resources crunch. "Inspite of resources crunch, the armed services have done their work very satisfactorily and made commendable work."

On the question of threat perception facing the country, the Prime Minister said the threat perception was not a constant one. The perception has two parts, one part which was constant and the other which varied from time to time, according to circumstances. The chiefs of staff were informing him of the situation from time to time and adequate steps were being taken to deal with the situation.

Mr Narasimha Rao refuted the criticism by some members that the country has no national defence policy. Stating that this was not true, he explained that though they did not have a document on the national defence policy, they have got several guidelines which were strictly observed. Defending the national territory- land, sea and air, securing international peace, maintaining harmonious relations with the neighbouring countries were part of the policy.

On the constitution of the National Security Council, he said the government felt that the body constituted in 1990 was too unwieldy consisting of a large number of experts and other persons. The government felt that it would be more appropriate to have consultations with smaller expert bodies on different aspects of defence. Specific committees of experts on various aspects would be constituted.

He also stated that though there was no National Security Council now, regular consultations were taking place with the chiefs of staff and other experts. He said the government would like to have an overall acting body and also prepare an integrated action plan.

Decisions would be taken in these matters shortly. "We are in the process of giving final shape to the proposals. It is more or less ready," he said and added that he would come back to the House for their views on it.

On the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Prime Minister said right from the beginning, India was opposed to a NPT which would divide the world into "haves" and "have nots." Amidst applause from members of the treasury benches, he said the government would continue its efforts for a genuine and comprehensive NPT. "We stand for complete abolition of all nuclear weapons of mass destruction." [passage omitted]

Iran

Commentary Views U.S. Use of Embargoes, Results

NC1606195695 Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Jun 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Unequivocal Rhetoric"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati believes that "Iran has the necessary means at its disposal to render the U.S. trade embargo against it unsuccessful." The French newspaper LE FIGARO recently interviewed Dr. Velayati and cited him as saying: Iran has never felt as strong and as powerful as it does now." [punctuation as published]

This is why Iranian officials, including Dr. Velayati—who has been at the helm of executive affairs of the country's foreign policy for over a decade—believe that in such a situation, Iran does not have any fear of the U.S. trade embargo.

The basic question is: On what basis or reasoning are such unequivocal and frank statements being made? Perhaps from the perspective of those conversant in Iranian issues and some so-called classic [preceding word in English] experts of Iran-U.S. relations these remarks by the Iranian foreign minister, exactly on the eve of the beginning of the U.S. embargo against Iran, would constitute a "diplomatic move" or a part of the endless verbal warfare that goes on between Iran and the United States. The fact is that the senior Iranian echelons have adopted this clear and categorical position on the basis of their accurate understanding of Iranian society and people and of their number one enemy that is, the United States. These remarks should be seen on the basis of logical and historical reasoning and inferences.

There is no doubt that the effect of three factors is undeniable and extremely important. They are: The current position of Iran and the United States on the international level, the record of Iran-U.S. relations, and the personal and ineffective nature of the "embargo" ploy in international politics as it has degenerated to the level of a "tactical differential," rather than being considered a "decisive" factor in the recent positions of our country's officials as regards to combating U.S. pressures.

The U.S. precedent of using embargoes as a ploy to combat the opponents of its imperialistic and arrogant policies worldwide does not consider the clear record of its consequences. The three-year [as published] trade boycott of Cuba, the arms embargo against Pakistan, the trade sanctions against Iraq, the technology ban on the PRC, etc., by the United States have never yielded the results that the Americans expected. In addition, the main reason or motive for imposing the embargoes continues in the countries on which the embargoes have been imposed.

Even after 30 years, Cuba is still considered an intransigent enemy of the United States and it does not intend to change its positions. The trade sanctions on Saddam have not resulted in his downfall in the manner the Americans had expected. In fact, it even became a pretext for causing anti-U.S. sentiments among the Iraqi people and consolidating the home government.

The technology ban on the PRC did not result in that country joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. It even failed to prevent a Beijing-Washington trade surplus. The arms embargo against Pakistan also did not prevent Pakistani officials from purchasing the items needed for their defense from other arms exporters.

Comparatively, what is important in all these sanctions is that each of these countries—after the lapse of a not too long a time— adjusted themselves to the needs of the hour and reduced their dependence on the United States in the areas of the embargo, so that the Americans were the ones who had to gradually retreat from their positions. Due to internal pressures and a nonfavorable international climate, the Americans initiated talks with Castro's government, a government which they had deemed illegal and terroristic. Their companies enter into covert business deals with Iraq; they call for a reduction of the trade surplus with the PRC and strive to win the hearts of the Pakistani officials.

On the other hand, "embargoes" as an indeterminate tactical ploy require the presence of certain circumstances, circumstances which the Americans have failed to have in place in regards to Iran. Attracting unanimity among all countries to impose and to adhere to embargoes; preventing the embargoed countries from gaining access to international and even unofficial (free) markets; persuading the commercial companies of the government which has imposed the embargoes to abide by the embargoes for a prolonged period of time, thus enduring economic and financial losses—these make up the collective circumstances that have never been seen to exist simultaneously at any particular time, anywhere in the world. Americans have never been able to muster this collection of circumstances in their embargoes whether against Iran or other governments.

The United States has been unable to topple Saddam—despite having the advantage of a multilateral international embargo against Baghdad, in conjunction with being backed by the power of warships and usurping the decisionmaking process of the United Nations, which supports these embargoes. Iran has also not gotten mixed up in the illogical predicament of an attack on Kuwait as Iraq did. Neither are all the greater powers of the world willing to ignore their interests to maintain relations with Iran and to cooperate with Washington instead; nor does the United States have the ability to impose such embargoes against a great and prestigious country such as Iran.

Besides, the United States wishes to impose an embargo in areas that the U.S. companies are also not inclined to submit. Iranian oil, which the United States hopes will not find its way to international markets, will easily find customers. This is not our conjecture but the opinion of experts, specialists in the oil industry and world financial markets, some of whom are Americans.

In short, the past record of the relations between Iran and the United States has been consistently marked by seething anti-U.S. sentiments by Iran whenever greater pressure has been exerted by the White House on them. It is the folly and naivete of the White House that they have never attempted to correctly comprehend the Iran's feelings. Despite the repeated failure of their past policies, once again they test their erroneous policies against our nation.

With their struggle against the United States over many consecutive years, the Muslim Iranian people have proven that they are not as sensitive on any issue as they are on relations with the United States. The frank and unequivocal position of the Iranian hierarchy is based more on massive popular support and the combination of fervor, slogans, and logic that is inspired by the combatant Iranian nation, rather than on weakness and on the ranting and raving of the United States, internationally and among its allies.

Diplomat: 'Little Effect' to U.S. Sanctions

LD1906184395 Tehran IRNA in English
1627 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] June 19, IRNA — A West European diplomat has called for closer relations between the European Union (EU) and the Islamic Republic of Iran and noted that American sanctions against Tehran had little effect.

"We feel that the American sanctions will not be productive,"

The Athens-based diplomat told IRNA, speaking on condition of anonymity.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month announced trade sanctions against Iran, a move seen by the Muslim world to please the Zionist state and world Zionism.

He said there should be closer relations betwwen Iran, "a key country in the Middle East," and the 15-member EU. Tehran and the West European bloc are to hold talks on 22 June to broaden bilateral relations.

The EU and Japan rejected Clinton's call to follow the American line and impose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

IRNA Reports Japan To Increase Oil Purchases

LD1906145295 Tehran IRNA in English
1216 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, June 19, IRNA — Japan is reported to be the first Group of Seven (G7) industrial state to formally reject U.S. President Clinton's near-total trade embargo against Iran, which came into force last week.

According to MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST, Tokyo has officially told Washington that it will not take part in trade and investment sanctions, defying U.S. pressure.

During a visit to China in late May, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama indicated Tokyo would not follow Clinton's line, arguing punitive measure against Iran would be counterproductive.

The position was confirmed as Washington and Tokyo prepared to discuss their own trade dispute on June 9, when a senior Japanese official said that restrictions on commercial activities between private companies and Iran could not be easily implemented.

The snub comes as market reports suggest Japan is expected to buy 540,000 barrels of oil per day from the National Iranian Oil Company this month, up from 260,000 barrels in May and from an average of 440,000 barrels over the past 12 months.

Clinton's unilateral embargo has been widely rejected by virtually all countries, with only Israel expressing any support.

At last weekend's G7 summit in Canada, the U.S. President was said to have abandoned plans to press other leaders to join the sanctions and instead had to resort to a rhetorical statement repeating old criticisms in an attempted face-saving exercise.

Report on Power Plant, French Monitoring

BR1606143695 Paris LE FIGARO in French
16 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Claude Lorieux: "Iranian Nuclear Mysteries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. embargo does not please Iranian "environmentalists," a scarce and wary lot. They are prohibited from questioning in public the reconditioning of the Bushehr nuclear plant, which has been done with the help of Russia.

"It has become a patriotic matter," an official who once condemned the mullah's nuclear choices complains. Community spirit does not preclude doubt: "Remember the Three Mile Island accident, and the Chernobyl disaster. This can happen to us. I fear for our groundwater reserves and I wonder what we will do with nuclear waste."

Military Ambitions

"Iran has invested a lot of money in Bushehr. We cannot give up this investment. Who would compensate us for the loss?" Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i says referring to the building site opened by Siemens before the revolution. The Russians took over from the Germans when the latter refused to finish the job started under the monarchy. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i: "We wish to use the best technology. If the French were to agree to a joint venture with Iran, they would be welcome. Thus they would be able to monitor the Bushehr plant and alleviate any worries concerning another potential use of this peaceful technology. Let me bring this up through your newspaper."

Iran has substantial energy needs. Despite relatively effective birth control measures, the population (67 million) has been growing by 2 percent a year. The government implemented an energy saving program based on price adjustment and the partial substitution of oil with natural gas.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic has huge reserves: 95 billion recoverable oil barrels and 21 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. So was resuming work at Bushehr a reasonable option?

A western businessman answers: "Iran has the world's second largest reserves of natural gas, just behind the CIS. I find it hard to understand the Bushehr project! It has more to do with political prestige considerations than economic necessity." Foreign experts stress that investment programs in the oil and gas industries have fallen behind. An economist says: "Bushehr... this is almost a provocation when one knows there is not one dollar available for gas exploration."

The petroleum minister is unconvinced by such arguments: "The United States, which produces more oil than we do, has a nuclear program. I fail to see why having oil and natural gas reserves should preclude using other energy sources."

An intellectual who opposes his country's nuclear program suggests another explanation: "The experts trained in the United States under the Shah regime have regained a measure of influence. They have been lobbying hard to be allowed to work." And he adds: "Military circles, worried about the Israeli bomb, encouraged them. I do not mean to say by this that Iran has the bomb, however." As for the petroleum minister, he says rumors about the "Iranian bomb" are "completely groundless."

And yet experts we talked to in the West noted that the Islamic Republic has sent students to Chinese and Eastern European university to attend courses related to nuclear power. Intrigued by purchases of materials he deems "unnecessary for a civilian program," a diplomat says: "I have good reason to worry about the military ambitions of Iran which — let us acknowledge this — is surrounded by nuclear countries: Kazakhstan and Pakistan."

According to another expert, Teheran has carried out the basic fundamental research and it possesses carriers (with a range of a few hundreds of km), but has "still a long way to go" for "mass production." And the expert concludes: "Iran has neither the financial means nor the logistics required to establish a credible force within the next 10 years." However, the United States just does not want this to happen, even in 10 years.

Embassy Denies Turkish Daily Claim on PKK Head

LD1706151395 Tehran IRNA in English
1502 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, June 17, IRNA — The Iranian Embassy in Ankara here on Saturday [17 June] rejected the allegation of a daily that the leader of the Turkish Workers Party (PKK), Abdullah Oujallan had visited Tehran and held talks with Iranian officials.

The Istanbul based daily SABAH qouted sources in the United States as saying that Oujalan had held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran.

The cultural attache of the embassy categorically denied the report which appeared in SABAH.

Issuing a statement the cultural attache of the embassy said now it has become clear to all that the United States is openly after exerting pressure upon Iran and is making every effort to strain Tehran's relations with its neighbours especially with Turkey.

The statement said the report appeared at a time when the supreme security commission of the two countries succeeded in reaching agreements and ranking Turkish officials have expressed appreciation over Iranian performance in this regard.

Official Meets Russian Envoy, Addresses Chechnya

LD2006110495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy head of Islamic Majles's Foreign Policy Commission, at a meeting with the ambassador of the Russian Federation [Sergey Tretyakov] in Tehran today, stressing the importance of respecting national sovereignty of other countries and refusing to support divisive policies, said: We believe that Russia's prestige has been severely damaged in the Chechnya issue.

Mr. Larijani added: In view of the pressure exerted on the Chechen people during the Stalin era and after that, the Russian Government could and still can win the trust of the Muslims in that region. He emphasized: The Russian Republic should not behave in a manner which can be exploited by biased propaganda of the world's Zionist and anti-Islamic elements.

About the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Larijani said: Here again the government of the Russian Republic should not become known as the only supporter of the Serbs. Of course it is an unfortunate situation that the Serbs and the Muslims are confronting each other, as history can testify that these two have always been oppressed and have always supported each other.

Mr. Larijani, at the same time, added that a peaceful solution of the Bosnian crisis would serve the interests of both Muslims and the Serbs. He went on: The Serbs should not make the same mistakes as Saddam made in this region.

At the meeting, the Russian ambassador to Tehran described the latest situation in Chechnya, and said: From our viewpoint, the Chechen problem is not an Islamic issue in terms of clashes between the Muslims and the non-Muslims. After the current changes, the followers of all religions live alongside each other in complete freedom and with equal rights in Russia.

The Russian ambassador in Tehran handed over a message from the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly concerning the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the deputy head of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee.

Omani Minister of Information Pays Official Visit

Arrives, Cites Aims of Visit

LD1806114595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Omani Minister of Information 'Abd-al-'Aziz al—Rawwas arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation before noon today. He was welcomed by 'Ali Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Following his arrival in Tehran, the Omani minister of information took part in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. He expressed satisfaction with his visit to Iran and said the aims of his visit are to convey a message from Sultan Qabus to the president of the

Islamic Republic of Iran and hold talks on the expansion of bilateral ties.

He said that relations between Iran and Oman were based on faith and fraternity and common culture and history. He also described the outlook for the two countries' relations as very satisfactory.

Views Region's 'Strategic Importance'

LD1906200695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with Mr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, the information minister of the Sultanate of Oman, Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Ruhani said that country enjoyed a special status among our country's southern neighbours.

Referring to the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf the Secretary of the National Security Council said the establishment of security and calm in the region was very important, and that it was only possible through true cooperation between the countries in the region. He also stressed our country's readiness to expand ties with southern Persian Gulf littoral states.

The Omani Information Minister said the Islamic Republic of Iran was one of Oman's closest friends. Referring to the common historical and geographic denominators between the two countries he expressed Oman's desire to further expand ties with Tehran.

Delivers Message to Rafsanjani

NC2006052795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Oman's information minister in Tabriz last night. During the meeting a message from Sultan Qabus of Oman was handed to the president.

The Central News Unit reports that during the meeting the president referred to the two countries' good relations and said the foreign presence in the Persian Gulf disturbs security. He emphasized the need for joint cooperation among the Persian Gulf littoral countries to ensure regional security.

Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas referred to the Islamic Republic's significant role in establishing peace and stability in the region and called for expanding Muscat-Tehran relations.

Discusses Media Cooperation

LD2006100795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Visiting Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has met Mr. Larijani the director general of Iran's voice and vision organization. During this meeting they discussed cooperation in the sphere of radio and television, including an exchange of news and other programs.

Mr. al-Rawwas, referring to the two countries' shared religious background, stressed the need to expand mutual ties.

Mr. Larijani referred to his talks with the authorities in Oman last year and said: During that visit we signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in various aspects of the media. Greater efforts should be undertaken to implement that memorandum of understanding.

Commentary Views 'Good Relations'

NC2006060895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Jun 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oman's Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas, who arrived in our country two days ago, met our esteemed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tabriz yesterday and handed him a message from Sultan Qabus.

Frequent and mutual meetings between Iranian and Omani officials are one of the most important signs that the two countries are determined to consolidate their good relations. You could say bilateral Iranian-Omani relations, which are based on mutual respect and good neighborliness, have been stable during the past two decades and can offer a good pattern for other regional countries.

During the imposed war Oman adopted a neutral policy, unlike the other members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, and strived to end the war. During the oil war the Omani Government—like our country—emphasized the need for Kuwait's independence and for Iraq's withdrawal. After the war it directed its policies toward preserving regional stability and independence.

Political observers believe efforts to end conflicts in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf constitute one of the most important political needs of the region, since, by spreading discord in the region, especially regarding security, the big powers are trying to plunder the region's wealth on the basis of the policy of divide and rule and in a bid to continue to dominate the region.

Undoubtedly, the frequent meetings between Iranian and Omani officials constitute one of the important factors that can raise understanding and cooperation between the two countries in safeguarding regional stability and independence.

Paper Details Losses of Government Companies

95LA0214F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—To implement greater supervision of government companies, for the first time the Majles has created a centralized account for these companies based on Article 31 of the Public Accounting Law.

Hoseyn Rashidi, deputy from Darab and deputy chairman of the Economic and Financial Affairs and Cooperatives Commission, announced this, telling our correspondent: To stipulate the number and extent of the financial activities of the government companies, it has been decided that as of the beginning of 1374 [21 March 1995] all companies will have a centralized account with the Treasury and that all their revenues will initially be deposited into this account. Upon notification from the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, they will be able to withdraw and spend those funds within the limit of the approved budget. This account will also be opened for those companies whose names must be mentioned in accordance with the law.

He added: To do this, financial controllers from the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs will be assigned to the government companies to supervise their financial affairs.

In the same regard he added: With this measure, the Majles can be assured that the government companies will no longer be able to make use of their funds as they do now, and they will not have a free hand in financial matters.

The deputy chairman of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission discussed the reason for creating the centralized accounts. He said: In order for the Majles to exercise greater supervision of the financial affairs of the government companies, numerous meetings have been held for months, attended by experts from the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Accounting Court, and the Accounting Organization. All agreed that one of the ways to supervise the government is to establish a centralized account.

Rashidi was asked about the number of government companies. He answered: The number of companies is not yet known. The names of about 300 companies are mentioned each year in the budget laws, but based on the studies of the Accounting Court and the Accounting Organization, there are about 2,000 government companies.

He discussed the reason the number of government companies has not been precisely determined. He said: One reason is the description of these companies in the Public Accounting Law. Another is that the number of these companies increases every day. With the approval of a note in the 1374 Budget Law, however, the expansion of these companies has been stopped.

The deputy chairman of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission noted that one major problem for the government and the Majles is supervision of government companies. He said: Of the government's budget of 96 trillion rials [R] for 1374, more than R64 trillion is for the government companies, which is a very heavy figure. This is the best reason for controlling and supervising them carefully.

He added: If the government were to spend R64 trillion anywhere, it could get good revenue from it, yet these companies are not earning any revenue for the government.

The deputy from Darab, emphasized: This year the government companies not only made no profit, but based on the expectations of the Plan and Budget Organization, overall these companies lost about R3 trillion, yet in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the government companies were paid about R7 trillion in means.

Rashidi added: The losses of the government companies make it more necessary to transfer them to the private sector. To expedite privatization, an organization independent from these companies must be created to be responsible for doing the work and to pursue and implement privatization without a direct relationship to these companies.

In conclusion, the deputy chairman of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission said: Since a number of government companies are not profitable and are losing money—and for this reason are not salable on the stock market—to prevent the loss of treasury funds it is necessary to make the transfers to the private sector under simpler conditions and to dissolve these companies.

*Article Views Multilateral Economic Development

95LA0183A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 95 p 15

[Article by S. Baqeri, electronics student]

[FBIS Translated Text] The discussion on economic and social development has been going on for some time in our country, and various views have been expressed about it. Even though these discussions are always one dimensional or multidimensional, they never consider all aspects of the issue and the resources for development. For this reason, I decided to point out the issues to which little attention has been paid.

In our country, we have two very distinct issues that are focal points and are mentioned as a bridge to raising the standard of living and income in the society.

Iran proudly and victoriously came through eight years of war imposed against Islam by the superpowers and began certain reforms to achieve economic self-sufficiency. In the course of the First Five-Year Plan, the country has had rapid growth in some industries and industrial products. About 90 percent of these industrial projects were fundamental projects, and, thank God, at the present, the needs of some industries and factories for raw industrial materials are provided domestically. Now the question is raised as to whether the future industrial projects in the Second Five-Year Plan are the continuation of the policies of the First Plan.

A long time ago, the Mobarakeh Steel Factory was opened and put into operation, and now it provides for the needs of the country in the area of steel sheets and ingots. A few months after this large factory opened, in several sessions on television, the project officials began a discussion regarding whether or not steel production in the country is economical. We must now consider whether such discussions should have taken place prior to building the factory or after its completion. After spending about $3.5 billion on this factory, our officials started to contemplate whether or not their action was economical.

With about 4 million tons of steel production, we cannot compete with such giants as Japan, Germany, and the United States, whose steel production is tens of millions of tons. Just to be able to provide for our needs would be very nice. For surplus steel production, we must think of another solution: expanding the secondary industries.

One of the industries that is a regular customer of the steel industry is automobile manufacturing. The old wish of every Iranian Muslim is to build a car that is 100 percent Iranian. Has the time not come for us to invest in this industry? This is an industry with potentially high added value for us which can bring huge profits for the country. Some time ago, newspapers published reports that an "automobile assembly line will be put into operation in Bam." This indicates lack of attention to national automobile production. By starting the operation of an assembly line which costs millions of dollars, will technology be brought into the country? What advantage is there for us to assemble a car whose parts are manufactured abroad? In the same way, none of the other cars that are manufactured domestically, even the Peykan, are 100 percent Iranian. Unfortunately, whenever there is a discussion about these industries, the officials speak of the inability of the country, under present conditions, to invest in this sector and reject any possibility of it.

Another area that must be pointed out is the electronic industries in the country. The electronic capability of our country is very weak. Our problem is that we think of electronic industries as only making telephones and televisions. Every year we import a large amount of electronic equipment, including television and video cameras, tape recorders, televisions, television transmitters, computers, various printing and photocopy equipment, various office machines, etc. In my opinion, our intent in investing in these industries should not be to compete with countries such as Japan. Rather, the objective should be to provide for domestic needs and those of the regional countries, for which we have the resources. We should never tell ourselves, "we cannot." We have very capable specialists who can help achieve this goal. Is it not true that the makers of super computers (the sale of which is now prohibited in the Third World countries) were Iranian?

Investment in this industry is vital for us. Even though in this industry we are beginners, our investment must look to the future. Otherwise we will be left behind in the fast-paced technological caravan of today. Today the people of our country are completely familiar with the labels of the electronic giants in the world, and as we know, one of the infant giants is a Korean company. Despite its being a new company, it has $43 billion in sales annually, which is about twice the total exports of Iran. We must not think that because industrial countries have made a great deal of advancement in this area, there is no room for us in the market. We must increase our efforts and, with work ethics, group effort, and relying on God, build Iran in such a way that it becomes a model for other countries. We must be assured that if the path is correct, no effort will remain without results.

One of the jobs we can create in the country to bring in abundant revenues at a low cost is making and distributing computer software. By gathering a few first-rate computer engineers in one room with a few computers, we can prepare computer software packages and send them to the market. India has been earning about $5 billion for years doing just this. This amount equals the total non-oil revenues of our country. We have vast capital from which, unfortunately, we are unable to make the necessary profit because we do not recognize it. All this is a God-given gift and capital that must be discovered and utilized.

The issue of industries aside, we come to the issue of agriculture. Our major problems in agriculture are the shortage of resources and the shortage of conversion industries. First, I will give an example to better clarify the issue.

France is a country with an area the size of about one-third of our country, and only 34 percent of the land in that country is arable, which calculates the total amount of arable land in that country at 18.5 million hectares. Of this amount of land, they produce annually 30 million tons of wheat, 6 million tons of potatoes, 14 million tons of corn, and 6 million tons of sugar. At the same time, our country, with much more potential, has problems producing food. We must admit that the problem with our agriculture is lack of resources for mechanized farming and the lack of familiarity of farmers with new agricultural methods. We have hard-working farmers, which is in itself a gift for our country. If they are supported and are sure that the government will buy their products at a guaranteed price, certainly they will make more effort to increase their production output and cultivate a greater part of their land.

Another problem of our agriculture is the shortage of conversion industries. Frequently our orchard owners have suffered very heavy losses. The northern part of the country, as we know, is the center for fruit production in the country. Often, due to the saturation of the market, thousands of tons of the fruit produced rots or is used to feed livestock, but if there were a few fruit juice, preserve, and canned fruit factories, would this happen?

We must not take this lightly. All this is our national capital that is being wasted. Our farmers and fruit growers work very hard to bring these trees and agricultural products to fruition. Unfortunately, this is a problem that exists all over our country and not only in the north.

Today, conversion industries are considered one of the tools in agricultural development. Fortunately, these industries use little foreign currency and can have a high added value. Moreover, they prevent the uncontrolled increase in migration to the cities. Of course, the shortage of some foodstuff in the country is not due to the amount of domestic production; in this connection, the waste of agricultural products also plays a role. This problem is also part of the aforementioned problems.

The need to develop this sector is clear to everyone, and agriculture on the whole can be one of the ways of acquiring large foreign currency revenues. In today's world, there are a small number of countries that can produce all their food needs, and trade in agricultural products is one of the most successful ways to gain foreign currency revenues.

In conclusion, I find it necessary to state a few points as a reminder:

Our country enjoys a very good strategic position. We have very large markets in the region. If we have high production capability, certainly we will become the leading economic power in the region. The newly independent countries will be good markets for our goods. We must advertise in the media of these countries to familiarize them with our products and their variety. The Persian Gulf region, as well as our eastern and western neighbors, are also good markets.

In order to continue our economic life, we must move toward exports and not be mere consumers.

We must use the foreign currency obtained from the sale of oil on increasing our industrial and agricultural production. We will only have oil for 30 more years, and if we do not act quickly, we will never be able to start again. We must concentrate the major part of our industrial investments on light and semi-light industries and expand them.

I hope for a day when we witness the thriving of our national economy in all industrial and agricultural areas.

Article Views Tax System Weight on Wage Earners

95LA0238E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by Mohammad Reza Saddiqi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has before it three major ways to procure revenues: selling foreign currency, borrowing from the Central Bank, and tax revenues. Foreign currency in our country is mainly procured from the sale of oil revenues, and the oil revenues, in addition to experiencing a declining trend, suffer from fluctuations and lack of balance.

Considering the budget deficit, borrowing from the banking system is also an undesirable means, one which results in inflation in the national economy. In the course of the past years, the unfavorable effects of this have been experienced. What remains are tax revenues.

We must realize that this source of revenue, while creating stability in government receivables if it is based on a suitable system, will also create some degree of harmony in the economic variables.

If the tax system is designed and implemented in a desirable form, it will create a balance with regard to three major economic factors: consumption, revenues, and savings. This coordination and balance will itself cause harmonious and lasting economic growth.

Hence, it can be seen that in the area of financial policies, taxes are placed at the disposal of the government as a useful tool and can be used to achieve economic goals. Moreover, its unfavorable effects are minimal.

Unfortunately, and despite the undeniable efficacy of taxes, the best use is not made of this tool in the organization and dynamism of the national economy.

The lack of dynamism and the limited effect of the national tax system, especially prior to the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan, has caused the budget to rely on oil revenues and borrowing from the banking system to continue.

Despite the growth that appeared in the tax revenues of the country at the end of the First Plan, it is evident that these revenues are still far less than the current expenditures of the country. For example, in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], while the current expenditures of the country were 7,783.6 billion rials [R], the collected tax revenues amounted to R3,773.4 billion.[1] This shows that we have a long way to go to reach the desirable goal; that is, meeting the current expenditures through tax revenues.

The inadequacy of the national tax system is seen not only at the level of its insufficiency to meet the necessities of the national economy. Another problem is within the tax system; that is, the unreasonable share of the individual in the tax revenues of the country.

This shortcoming, which stems to some extent from the lethargy in that organization, has made the national tax system lean toward collecting the easiest taxes, and this can itself overshadow the success of the planning organization of the country.

Taxes on salaries are a clear example of the shortcomings of the second kind. This item comprises a major share of the income taxes every year, and despite the efforts made to reform the structure, it is still an important component of direct taxes.

The chart below shows the figures that have been achieved with regard to taxes on salaries as a part of the income taxes compared to the total income taxes.

Even though the share of this tax component on the whole, ignoring the fluctuations, has been declining in the past 10 years, it continues to comprise a major part of the income taxes of the country.

[No title as published]

Figures in million rials

Share of Taxes on Salaries in Total Income Taxes [percent]	Total Taxes	Taxes on Salaries	Year
64.9	90,347	58,659	1362 [21 Mar 1983-20 Mar 1984]
68.7	105,907	72,860	1363 [21 Mar 1984-20 Mar 1985]
63.5	136,228	86,590	1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986]
56.9	163,520	93,151	1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]
42.5	166,432	70,794	1366 [21 Mar 1987-20 Mar 1988]
40.6	171,679	69,729	1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989]
39.7	223,388	88,876	1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990]

Figures in million rials

40.9	309,187	126,755	1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991]
47.5	482,775	229,507	1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992]
38.7	546,698	211,816	1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993]
44.1	766,000	338,500	1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994]

Source: The years 1362 to 1371 [21 Mar 1983-20 Mar 1993] from the data collection ("Schedule of Statistics of National Monetary and Financial Accounts"). Plan and Budget Organization, "Chart No. 16 and Figures of 1372, from the book, *The Operations of the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, Chart No. 5."

As the chart shows, at the end of 1372, the share of taxes on salaries of the total income taxes amounts to 44 percent, which continues to be a significant figure. Modification of this tax component becomes important when we note that in the past years, for some reason, cash flow and inflation grew in the country. The increase in the price of goods more than anything has weakened the economic power of those on fixed salaries, and support for this stratum in order to achieve social justice is an undeniable necessity. Naturally, with regard to the decrease in the tax burden on this stratum, efforts must be made to impose heavier taxes on the very wealthy, those who in the past years and with the effects of the war conditions, embargo, end even economic reconstruction have absorbed abundant resources and accumulated wealth.

Notes

1. Data collection (schedule of statistics of national monetary and financial accounts) of the Plan and Budget Organization, from Chart No. 14.

Pakistan

Daily Expresses Concern Over U.S.-Indian Ties

BK1706130095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US-India defence cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Elite groups of commandos of the US and the Indian army are holding joint war games in the mountains of northern India. This may be a small part of the whole process of the military cooperation between the US and India. The process was initiated by the military cooperation proposals made in 1991 by the US. As a result, a series of joint naval exercises between the two navies was started. The fourth of these joint naval games was held recently with the name "Malabar 95" from 11 to 14 May off the Cochin coast. The previous three took place in May 1992, October 1994 and February 1995. Seen in the broader framework, these exercises are indicators of ever-increasing cooperation between India and the US. The first sign of this appeared sometime in 1987. It opened up the avenues of mutual interest in many fields. Along with trade relations and the technological transfer, these joint exercises have demonstrated well the emerging close relationship between the US and India. Finally, these warm relations had a confirmatory seal put by the India-US defence agreement in January 1995 in New Delhi during the visit of US defence secretary William Perry. In this connection, the first meeting at senior officers' level is scheduled for June 21 in Washington DC.

On the other hand, Pakistan-US relations, after having gone through a transitory phase, are entering into a somewhat stable state. Indeed the lowest point in US-Pakistan relations came about in 1990; the most prominent factors for that being the Soviet Union's pullout from Afghanistan, the Gulf situation and invoking of the Pressler amendment against Pakistan. At one stage relations between the two countries were really strained but after the Prime Minister's Washington visit, these relations seem to be improving. This approximate coincidence — 1990 for US-Pakistan and 1991 for US-India relations — has been referred to as America's tilt toward India.

India is a pre-eminent power in South Asia. All its neighbours combined cannot outstrip its dominant position in the region. In addition, all major countries — Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal have disputes of one kind or the other with India, the main threat to peace and security in the region being the Kashmir issue.

The historical imbalance of power between India and its neighbours has always been a cause for concern for the smaller states of South Asia. When a superpower like the US is seen having close defence relations with already dominant power, it does accentuate their sense of insecurity.

For US policy makers, their new stance towards South Asia may be only a readjustment for the post-cold war situation which they like to call an even-handed policy towards India and Pakistan. In another context, both the US and India try to shift the thrust and implications of various joint military exercises towards China and view these steps as a strategy of balancing the power equation between India and China. To prove the absence of any linkage of the India-US military collaboration with Pakistan's security or the Kashmir dispute, US leaders refer to the improving US-Pakistan relations, their concerns for the human rights conditions in Kashmir and their efforts for confidence building measures between the two countries.

However, the fact remains that the Indian military build up is neither being considered as breeding insecurity and accelerating an arms race in South Asia, nor being viewed as a leverage to India in its dealings with the Kashmir dispute vis-a-vis Pakistan. Meanwhile, the situation in Kashmir is nowhere close to normalising, rather it is deteriorating further with every passing day. For this there is a genuine concern over human rights violations on the part of the international community including the US itself. To the Kashmiris, the US-India defence cooperation can never be taken as part of an even-handed policy in South Asia as US policy makers would want them to believe. In the same way, for Pakistan, this neutrality or evenhandedness towards unequals may sound as a gesture of support for the powerful only.

Seen in this context, the defence cooperation between the US and India is received with a lot of apprehensions not only in Pakistan but also by other neighbours. Same goes for the US concern for the deteriorating human rights conditions in Indian held Kashmir. Hence there is a need for matching this alleged neutrality or even- handedness of US policy with more active role for bringing peace in Kashmir leading to the eventual resolution of the dispute.

Officials, Media Address Kashmir, Ties With India

Minister Asks for 'Meaningful' Talks

BK1706124295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has called upon India to enter into meaningful dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue on the basis of UN charter and resolutions. Addressing the Pakistan Administrative Staff College in Lahore, he recounted various steps taken by Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully so as to end the core hurdle in the way of improving Pakistan-India relations. He reiterated that without resolving the core issue, the relations between the two countries will continue to be sour. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also threw light on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and spoke about gross human rights abuses by the Indian occupation forces in the held-Kashmir. However, he said there is now greater awareness at the international level about the Kashmir problem and the world public opinion is condemning human rights violations by India in the held territory.

Minister Denies 'Undeclared War'

BK2006061795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has informed the National Assembly that India committed 96 violations of the Line of Control in Kashmir during the past six months. Replying to a calling-of-attention notice in the house last night, he said that on 31 May a passenger bus, which was fired at by Indian troops, fell into a deep ravine, killing 20 people. A bypass road will be built between Keran and Tithwal to protect the traffic from Indian troops' shooting. Answering a question, the defense minister said that no undeclared war is going on between India and Pakistan, as recently claimed by the Indian army chief.

Daily Backs Foreign Minister's Remarks

BK2006054695 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 18 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "We Will Use Nonconventional Weapons in Case of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that India has been warned that Pakistan will not refrain from using conventional and nonconventional weapons if a war is imposed on it. He was expressing his views on "Pakistan-India relations, Kashmir and national security" at a gathering arranged by the Punjab Club. He said that one Indian minister threatens Pakistan with war, while another talks of negotiations. Pakistan is a peace-loving country and believes in solving problems through negotiations. So it is ready for talks with India for a solution to the Kashmir dispute, but India uses all kinds of excuses and pretexts to avoid it. India talks about the negotiations but is not ready to discuss the agenda. Pakistan is ready to accept mediation on the Kashmir issue, but

India does not agree to that, either. The only acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute is the one proposed in the UN resolutions i.e. the Kashmiris should be given the right of self-determination and be allowed to decide about their future through a free and fair plebiscite. Pakistan will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris and will not stop under any circumstances. Pakistan will not deal with any one except the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

Talking about the Simla Accord, he said that it was reached according to Clause 33 of the UN Charter, which does not stop Pakistan from going to any international forum. In response to India's allegation that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of occupied Kashmir, Pakistan proposed stationing observers on both sides of the Line of Control, but India rejected that proposal. Holding an election in the presence of 680,000 troops, which India has deployed in the occupied Kashmir, will be a mere farce. An election is not a solution to the problem. The Kashmiri people have already openly rejected the proposed elections. The minister said that India is under severe pressure these days. On one hand, the Kashmiris have stood up against it and on the other, there is no international forum where India is not being pressed for a fair settlement of the Kashmir issue. Though India is threatening Pakistan, it is not in a position to fight a war. It is well aware of Pakistan's defense capabilities. It may attack the refugee camps in Azad Kashmir on the pretext of those being training camps for Kashmiri freedom fighters but will have to face serious consequences. Pakistan will not accept India's hegemony in the region. He stated that the terrorist activity in Karachi has a connection with the Kashmir issue, as Indian terrorists and saboteurs are masterminding the killings. If the Indian leadership has a little bit of wisdom and farsightedness, then it should not delay the solution of the Kashmir dispute any longer. If this issue is settled according to the wishes of the people of Kashmir and the UN resolutions, this region will become a cradle of peace and stability, which will help improve the lot of the millions of people living here.

Bhutto Comments on Budget Projections

BK1606075695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Wednesday [14 June] that the government would not present any mini-budget during fiscal year 1995-96.

She said her government would convince the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the inflation would have doubled had it fixed targets of bringing down the budget deficit to 4 percent and lowering the tariff rates from 70 percent to 45 percent as agreed with it.

"Inflation would have gone up to 30 percent during 1995-96 had we implemented the two IMF conditionalities," the Prime Minister told the newsmen shortly after the presentation of the federal budget in the National Assembly.

"We will tell the IMF team which is coming to Pakistan in the near future that we have met all economic targets. We will talk about the reforms structure," she said.

The government is committed to lowering tariff rates but it should be at a slower pace according to Pakistan's capacity to absorb the reduction, she said.

The Prime Minister said the tariff reduction should be such that it should benefit the people. The General Sales Tax (GST), she said, could not be collected as expected since the tax collecting staff was not trained for this job.

Ms Bhutto said she had promised that people would see the impact of her economic measures after 18 months and now, they could feel it for themselves. "Look at the inflation rate, tax collection figures, growth rate and other economic indicators, which show that in all major areas there have been slow but definite progress."

She said new taxes of Rs 16.5 billion had been introduced in the budget, which showed the improvement in the economy, and recalled that in 1992-93, taxes of Rs 18 billion were levied while in 1993-94 Rs 25 billion were levied. In 1994-95, her government imposed Rs 25 billion taxes despite the fact that it increased salaries by 25 percent, she claimed. "This year, we have to be more stringent and see how the economy works."

Answering a question, the Prime Minister said revenue targets were always over-pitched so that people (tax collectors) did more hard work. She showered lavish praise over the Central Board of Revenue and said it did a wonderful job by collecting 40 percent increased revenue during the past six months. "It speaks for the clean government I am running."

Ms Bhutto told a questioner that there would be no devaluation and the government would continue its present policy on this count. She said the government had allocated funds for defence which were necessary to meet its requirements.

She said less taxes would bring down the price-hike, but pointed out that the government could not avoid the "imported inflation" when prices of items like oil increase internationally.

The Prime Minister told a questioner that the increase in the electricity rates had nothing to do with the federal budget as the government did not take even a single penny from Wapda [Water and Power Development Authority] which was an independent establishment.

Ms Bhutto said no comment, when asked about her reaction on the opposition's boycott of the budget speech. "I have not received the report," she said when asked about the striking clerks were teargassed and baton-charged outside the Parliament building and were not allowed to protest.

Opposition Claims Budget 'Distortion of Numbers'

BK1606133895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The opposition has formally rejected the federal budget for the year 1995-96 saying it is a mere distortion of numbers in which attempt has been made to confuse the people. The PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group] also claimed that several mini budgets would certainly be presented in due course of time.

Reacting sharply, the opposition members, including Chaudhary Nisar ali Khan, Chaudhary Jafar Iqbal, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Raja Nadir Pervaiz, and Begun Ishrat Fatima said the government had completely ignored the sufferings of the common man and did not bring any relief package for him.

Chaudhary Nisar Ali regretted there wasn't any relief package for the masses of the country so that their condition could be improved. He accused the finance minister of ridiculing the nation besides breaching the privilege of the House by presenting wrong budgetary figures and allocation.

Referring to the GNP, he said the government had made a target of 6.9 percent but he regretted that the former could not even achieve 3 percent of it. He said how could they improve the GNP when during the past one year almost 4,000 industrial units had been forced to close down. He also referred to the situation in the stock exchange where according to him it was all time low. He said the government's claim that budget deficit was at 5.6 percent was wrong as it had been at 6.5 percent.

Another opposition member, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, reminded that the projects of Ghazi Barotha and Chashman nuclear power plant were initiated during the Nawaz Sharif period. He challenged a debate on the electricity generation policy of the government.

Referring to the privatisation policy of the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] government, he said during the past 20 months only one unit had been privatised, The gloomy state of the economy, he alleged, was forcing every one to quit and wind up his investment.

In the social sector, he said the government had only raised 1.4 percent while completely ignoring the current inflation rate. Similarly, there was a gap of Rs 16 billion in the sales tax while the administrative expenditure had been raised to 20 percent during the last one year.

Government Blamed for Foreign Investment Decline

95AS0392E Karachi AMN in Urdu 24 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Karachi's Situation and Foreign Investment."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consortium to help Pakistan has expressed concern over the law and order situation in Karachi and urged the government of Pakistan to solve the tense situation in the city which otherwise could have negative effects on investment.

Karachi's problem is now drawing world attention. The law and order situation grows worse every day and the use of modern weaponry in recent violent incidents has increased to such an extent that rockets are being fired. The government claims that it is arresting terrorists and bringing them under control but the feeling among the residents is that either it is beyond the government's capacity to control the terrorists or the government is deliberately letting them operate freely.

Karachi's problems are all-encompassing. Today, the most pressing problem is the restoration of law and order; last month passed comparatively peacefully and it was hoped that the government would bring terrorism under control. But this month, several large scale attacks were launched on police employees in which several people were wounded or killed. The government gave special powers to the police and Rangers following which innumerable individuals were arrested in the city. The law and order situation has grown so precarious in Karachi that every resident feels insecure; city life is paralyzed and while diorder, terrorism, abduction and armed robbery have ended hustle and bustle in the city, the same factors have forced investors to transfer their industries and investments to other areas. The basic reason for the virtual closing of Nuriabad industrial area was that there was no assurance that the industrial unions would be safe and the life and property of the workers protected.

Unemployment was already a problem in Karachi and the collapse of law and order has worsened the situation. The government has been blamed from all sides for not wanting to take positive and concrete steps to improve conditions in Karachi. Only the Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] has raised its voice in support of the constitutional, legal, economic and political rights of the Mohajirs. The members of the power mafia who belong to the feudal landowning class have always tried to usurp the rights of the poor and the members of the middle class who hold jobs or are small scale businessmen. The feudal landowners have never been in favor of establishing the country's economy on a welfare foundation which would allow the average citizen to enjoy certain facilities. This small and previliged class has always taken care of its own interests. Karachi, which is the country's largest city, is also the center of commercial and financial activity. The literacy rate here is the highest in the country and hence the people are more politically aware and understand their problems better when compared with other areas of the country. Here, voices are raised against every government injustice and act of discrimination. Every government, on the other hand, has treated Karachi and its residents as though they were stepchildren. Today, this city is losing even ordinary facilities; electricity and water were already in a critical state, now medical services have become non-existent. Problems of health, hygiene and pollution are intensifying. The people are dissatisfied; the daily incidents of lawlessness have killed the city's economy. The increasing population of Karachi had already reduced employment opportunities; now the break down of law and order has further added to the problem.

The government claims that it is solving Karachi's problems and will deal with terrorists with an iron fist. The fact, however, is that the government has given the right to solve Karachi's problems not to the city's elected representatives but to individuals nominated by the government. The intellectuals and political and non-political circles of the country are demanding that the government hold talks with Karachi's representative leadership, the MQM, and obtain its cooperation in improving the law and order situation but the government has decided to solve the problem without MQM's help and it has not succeeded so far. The deteriorating situation is leading to the portrayal of Karachi as a terrorist city to the world and it is mentioned negatively in the world press. This notoriety proves that the Pakistan government has failed. The consortium to help Pakistan is correct in expressing anxiety over foreign investment. When Pakistani investors themselves regard investment in Karachi as unprofitable, why would foreigners invest their money here? If the government wants to attract foreign investment in Pakistan, it should place the restoration of law and order in Karachi on a priority basis and be sincere in its efforts.

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